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EPA: Drinking water to be tested

For the first time, utilities will need to test for, filter out toxic forever chemicals

By Michael Hawthorne
Chicago Tribune

Water utilities will be required to routinely test for toxic forever chemicals, and spend billions upgrading treatment plants to filter them, under the first-ever national limits intended to protect Americans from widespread threats to human health and the environment.

In Illinois alone, the drinking water of more than 660,000 people is contaminated at levels exceeding the proposed standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The most widely detected versions of the chemicals build up in human blood, cause cancer and other diseases and take years to leave the body.

Last year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared there is effectively no safe level of exposure to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), used by 3M for decades to make Scotchgard stain repellent, or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which 3M sold to DuPont to manufacture Teflon coatings for cookware, clothing and wiring.

On Tuesday the EPA announced it intends to require utilities to limit concentrations of the two forever chemicals in drinking water to 4 parts per trillion, an amount the agency said is the lowest at which PFOS and PFOA can be accurately detected. Four other PFAS, including replacements for the original Scotchgard and Teflon chemicals, also will be regulated for the first time.

"This is a tremendous step

Turn to Chemicals, *Page 10*

Samples are taken of "finished" water from a faucet in a lab at the Wilmette Water Plant in July 2021. **ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

'The hardest position to fill'

Finding new top cop amid mayoral change, crime spike a challenge

By A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

The end of David Brown's nearly three-year tenure as the Chicago Police Department's leader comes at a pivotal time: The city is in the midst of a heated mayoral runoff between candidates offering contrasting takes on policing; CPD still grapples with diminished morale, shrinking ranks and a recent spike in violent crime; and calls for accountability that started before the death of George Floyd remain strong.

"Today, it is probably the hardest position to fill," said Chuck Wexler, longtime director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a Washington, D.C.-based police think tank that has helped with executive searches in Chicago and across the country.

Nationally, "expectations have never been higher. You're coming in at a time when policing is being challenged from every direction," Wexler said. Chicago is also a special case: "You have significant violent crime, you have a consent decree, you have morale issues, and you have hiring issues. All of those issues require a leader with extraordinary knowledge of policing and just genuine leadership."

The appointment of Brown's permanent replacement will also be the first major test for the new Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, a civilian body tasked with soliciting applicants and picking three appointees to deliver to the next mayor.

The commission is made up of seven interim members, including youth and community organizers, a pastor, an attorney and the head of Lawndale Christian Health Center. All were chosen by outgoing Mayor Lori Lightfoot last August. Their perspectives will be distinct from the body that used to help pick the superintendent: the Police Board, which decides

Turn to Police, *Page 4*

THE FAILURES BEFORE THE FIRES

Smoke detectors save lives, but Chicago has slow-walked efforts to toughen rules

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chicago firefighter Felix McAfee passes out smoke alarms with a 10-year battery life to residents in the 1600 block of North Mayfield Avenue on Dec. 22, following a fatal fire on the same block. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

FATAL FIRES, BUT STILL NO PROGRESS

By Alex Nitkin and Kelli Duncan | Illinois Answers Project
and Adriana Perez | Chicago Tribune

Just before midnight on a drizzly evening last June, Nicolas Mendoza parked his truck in front of his West Humboldt Park home and climbed his stoop after a late shift towing cars. When he heard a woman scream, he froze.

It was his neighbor, a 40-year-old woman, yelling that her four children were stuck inside their basement apartment as a fire raced through it.

"I was scared, because it was wailing from a desperate mother," Mendoza said in Spanish.

With no working smoke alarm in their apartment, the mother and her boyfriend didn't wake up until they heard the screams of her children. Disoriented, they managed to scramble out their bedroom window, but with the fire raging inside, they couldn't get back in, they later told authorities.

> ***"If you don't have working smoke alarms, your awareness that there is a fire is going to be somewhat delayed. And the longer that delay is, the less time you're going to have to escape — if you can escape at all."***
>
> *— Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at the National Fire Protection Association*

Mendoza smashed a window to try to enter, but smoke blasted him in the face.

"It was too much," he said. "There was nothing else that could be done."

The four children were pulled from the fire, barely alive. Over the next several days, 11-year-old Angel Rodriguez, 6-year-old Jayden Cruz, 4-year-old Axel Cruz and 5-year-old Aiden Cruz would die from smoke inhalation.

Illinois policymakers have been straining in recent years to catch up with national trends in safety standards to make sure modern, reliable smoke alarms are installed in every

Turn to Fires, *Page 8*

WAR IN UKRAINE

US: Russian fighter jet hit American drone

Pilotless vehicle brought down into sea near Crimea

By Karl Ritter
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian fighter jet struck the propeller of a U.S. surveillance drone over the Black Sea on Tuesday in a "brazen violation of international law," causing American forces to bring down the unmanned aerial vehicle, the U.S. said.

Moscow said the U.S. drone maneuvered sharply and crashed into water following an encounter with Russian fighter jets scrambled to intercept it near Crimea, but insisted its warplanes didn't fire their weapons or hit the drone.

Turn to Drone, *Page 14*

Ukrainian first responders work at a building struck by a missile that killed one person Tuesday in Kramatorsk. **ROMAN CHOP/AP**

INSIDE

'Unconventionally French' at LeTour

At the Evanston restaurant, "perfect" steak frites and French-Moroccan fare are the Gold standard. **Louisa Chu's ★★★ review in Food & Health**

March Madness may generate record bets

From office pools to online sports betting, 68 million Americans are expected to wager a record $15.5 billion as the 68-team field is winnowed to one. **Business**

TODAY'S WEATHER High **51** Low **40** | Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

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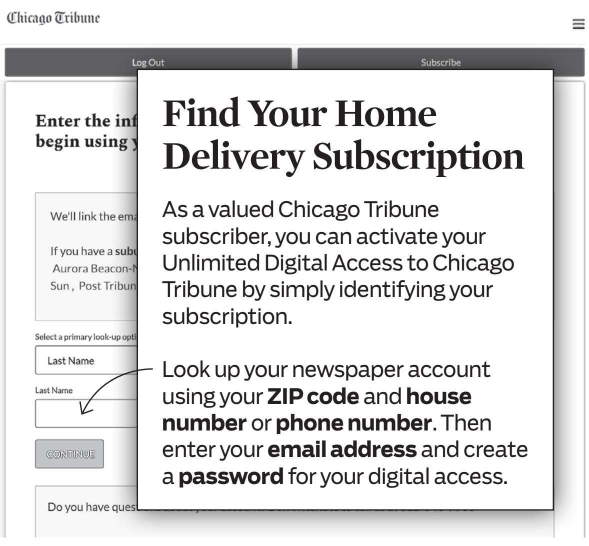

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Tribune books

"Dinner at Home" Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

"Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster." Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

"Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living" For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

"Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change." Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

"10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything." You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

All Chicago Tribune print books are available online at chicagotribune.com/printbooks

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The Tribune's editorial code of principles governs professional behavior and journalism standards. Everyone in our newsroom must agree to live up to this code of conduct. Read it at chicagotribune.com/accuracy.

Corrections and clarifications: Publishing information quickly and accurately is a central part of the Chicago Tribune's news responsibility.

■ An editorial Tuesday incorrectly placed the blame for the customers' run on Bailey Bros. Building & Loan in the film "It's a Wonderful Life." Uncle Billy loses the bank's deposit after George thwarts the run. The Tribune regrets the error.

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Vallas, Johnson deny previous comments at public safety forum

By Alice Yin, Gregory Pratt and A.D. Quig
Chicago Tribune

Mayoral candidates Brandon Johnson, left, and Paul Vallas shake hands after attending a forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Tuesday. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicago mayoral candidates Paul Vallas and Brandon Johnson had one thing in common during a Tuesday debate focused on public safety: They both denied making controversial comments attributed to them.

Asked about his previous support for the "defund the police" movement — including a declaration that it isn't a slogan but a "real political goal" — Johnson said, "I said it was a political goal. I never said it was mine."

Vallas, meanwhile, was asked about his calls to "take the handcuffs off the police," which he denied.

"Well, please let me know where I said that because … I've avoided using that rhetoric, and if I haven't, I'd be surprised by that quote, because I've been careful not to say that one," Vallas said.

The exchanges illustrated how Vallas, a former Chicago Public Schools CEO endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, and Johnson, a Cook County commissioner backed by the Chicago Teachers Union, are trying to appeal to moderates ahead of the April 4 election.

Both answers were misleading.

Starting in 2020, Johnson repeatedly made remarks endorsing activist-backed calls to reallocate police budgets and send the funds to other agencies in the wake of George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police. Since entering the mayor's race, he has backed away from such calls and said he would keep the Police Department's spending as it is.

He did, however, make efforts as a county commissioner to redirect money from law enforcement, including the Cook County sheriff's office.

In 2020, Johnson spoke on a panel titled "We Don't Call Police: A Town Hall on a Police-Free Future," where he praised organizers for pushing "an agenda that actually can transform people's lives."

"And part of it is removing ourselves away from this, you know, state-sponsored policing," Johnson said.

He also criticized Mayor Lori Lightfoot's opposition to "defund the police," saying the movement is "not just admirable, but it's necessary."

"We know the mayor of Chicago here rebuked this call to redirect money to defund this failed system of incarceration and policing," Johnson said on a radio show he was hosting in 2020. "So whether it's the president of the United States calling it a catchy hashtag or phrase, (or) Lori Lightfoot, which I think is actually quite dismissive of the young people who are literally putting their lives on the line for a cause that I think, quite frankly, is not just admirable, but it's necessary."

Vallas, meanwhile, denied his comments against the idea of "handcuffing" police officers and suggested the moderators were confusing him with a previous mayoral candidate, Willie Wilson.

When he rolled out his public safety plan in December, however, Vallas said he would reverse rules that have "literally handcuffed officers," according to WTTW, contributing to demoralization and making "proactive policing" impossible.

"It is really time to make criminal activity illegal again," Vallas said. "It seems that people can simply commit crimes with impunity." He has also made posts on Facebook and Twitter criticizing local leaders and state legislation for what he said was "handcuffing" police.

Both candidates opened the discussion with the assertion that Chicago police can't solve the problem of violence alone, but Johnson was more explicit in criticizing what he said was a police-heavy focus from City Hall over recent decades.

"Let me make this clear: Many times when our people begin to deliver services, the first thing people say is that our services are failing our people when we've seen jails and incarceration fail our people," Johnson said.

Johnson also drew a response from Vallas when he took credit for what he said was an "equity"-focused budget passed by the Cook County Board and that "I'm the only person on this stage who has actually put forth a budget plan." He also connected the increase in property taxes to Vallas, who led the public school district and budget office.

"I haven't been budget director in 25 years," Vallas responded.

Regarding his plans to recruit retired officers to return, which has seen low results in some cities where it's been tried, Vallas said he would be able to recruit former cops if work conditions improve.

Johnson, meanwhile, said standards are too stringent, particularly for Black applicants.

"We are remarkable human beings to want to serve a system that hasn't served us," he said, before focusing on restoring confidence in the Police Department despite a high-profile instance where Lightfoot defended the department's decision not to fire a cop tied to the extremist group Proud Boys.

"Not to mention, you might have a co-worker who was a part of a white supremacist organization," he said.

Vallas focused his few criticisms of Johnson on his staffing plans for Chicago police, including concerns over whether his opponent's idea to promote 200 officers to detectives without a specific call to fill those beat cop positions wouldn't leave a shortage.

"Simply promoting 200 officers to the detectives' division, OK, it's not going to solve the problems of crime in Chicago," Vallas said.

Vallas has said he will replenish the ranks of officers who have left the department.

Johnson asked back sarcastically: "So having detectives to solve crime doesn't solve crime in the city of Chicago?"

Vallas also explained his philosophy of "proactive," "community-based" policing during the forum. The candidate said the term is misinterpreted to mean "mass incarceration" or "stop-and-frisk" but actually entails training officers and placing them "on every beat" to increase interactions with residents and build up trust.

"The bottom line is, I've talked about it over and over again in columns, etc., is to restore proactive policing — and proactive policing that is consistent with the consent decree, and I've said that over and over and over again — proactive policing is not taking the handcuffs off," Vallas said.

He continued by laying out a vision of having beat cops "who know the community and who are known by name and by badge."

"Community policing fundamentally means you have beat officers on every beat, so every single beat is covered by a patrol car manned," Vallas said. "… And if you have enough police officers, and if you have enough detectives and you have a witness protection program, then the police officers will keep constantly interacting with the community."

Johnson responded: "Yeah, why when we talk about Black and brown communities, do we have to come up with new terms? I think the better question is why are we describing policing as a community effort only in Black and brown communities?"

Man indicted for COVID testing fraud scheme

By Adriana Perez
Chicago Tribune

A suburban man has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 10 counts of wire fraud and one count of theft of government funds for his involvement in a COVID-19 testing fraud scheme that netted his Chicago-based laboratory over $83 million from a federal pandemic relief program.

The money was allegedly obtained by submitting fraudulent claims for reimbursement on tests that were never performed, that were performed incorrectly or that were paid for by clients.

Zishan Alvi, 44, of Inverness, was arrested last week for his alleged involvement in the scheme. He pleaded not guilty to the indictment at his initial appearance on Friday, court records show. Alvi appeared for a detention hearing Monday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, where he was ordered released on a $2 million bond secured by property, according to court records.

Alvi co-owned and operated Laboratory A in Chicago, which purportedly performed two types of tests to detect COVID-19: PCR tests and "rapid" antigen tests that delivered results within approximately 15 minutes. Individuals and companies could also pay a fee for expedited PCR test results in Laboratory A.

According to the indictment, which was made public Monday, in or around December 2020, Laboratory A enrolled in the Health Resources and Services Administration's Uninsured Program. The agency's program used funds appropriated through federal legislation in order to cover the costs of COVID-19 tests for people without health insurance coverage.

Between February 2021 and February 2022, Alvi and others allegedly participated in a scheme by which Laboratory A submitted fraudulent claims seeking reimbursement for COVID-19 tests with the knowledge that: the laboratory had not performed a test; that the laboratory had modified a test, thus making the results unreliable; or that the laboratory had already been paid by clients who had purportedly been tested.

According to the indictment, Alvi directed Laboratory A employees to falsely report that COVID-19 tests had been performed on clients despite knowing that the test specimens had been thrown out, without being tested, at his direction. The laboratory would give negative test results to individuals who had provided specimens for testing. Laboratory A also did not release positive COVID-19 results on specimens where tests were eventually performed, since a negative result had already been released, according to the indictment.

The indictment also indicated that Alvi directed employees to alter the laboratory's testing methods by using less of the materials needed to process PCR tests — including the reagents — in order to reduce costs and increase profits, despite knowing that would make test results unreliable.

Alvi allegedly transferred part of the $83 million — which Laboratory A obtained from HRSA — from the laboratory's accounts to a personal account. He then allegedly used the money for personal expenditures, including vehicle purchases and investments in stocks and cryptocurrency. According to a news release Monday, the indictment seeks forfeiture from the defendant of over $6.8 million in alleged ill-gotten gains, in addition to five luxury vehicles and funds from other trade and investment accounts.

Each count of wire fraud Alvi faces is punishable by a maximum of 20 years in federal prison, and the count of theft of government funds is punishable by up to 10 years in federal prison.

"The charges in this case allege that the defendant disregarded public health concerns in favor of personal financial gain," said Morris Pasqual, acting U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, in a news release. "Doing so by compromising taxpayer-funded programs intended to fight the spread of coronavirus was particularly reprehensible."

Chicago Tribune's Jason Meisner contributed.

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CHICAGOLAND

Arguments over no-bail law aired in court

Ruling that halted plan to end cash bail appealed

By Jeremy Gorner and Madeline Buckley
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — Kankakee County State's Attorney James Rowe on Tuesday was making his argument for why a law eliminating cash bail violates the state constitution when Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis cut in with questions about his lawsuit's legal standing.

"How does this statute adversely impact the rights of elected state's attorneys and sheriffs?" Theis asked Rowe during the roughly 45-minute hearing in a packed courtroom.

Rowe, one of about 60 prosecutors statewide to sue over the law, said the plaintiffs have standing because of an oath they took to "uphold and defend the constitution of the state of Illinois."

"Was that the oath we took?," Theis asked him, noting that all lawyers take the same oath for entry to the state bar. "Or was the language prescribed in statute that we support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Illinois. … So are you saying every lawyer in the state of Illinois has the standing to challenge the statute?"

"I'm not arguing that your honor," Rowe said. "I'm saying the state's attorneys and sheriffs stand in a very unique position."

The exchange took place during a hearing on the state's appeal of a lower court ruling that sided with prosecutors and put an abrupt hold on the state's plan to end cash bail.

In their argument, lawyers for the Illinois attorney general's office contended nothing in the state constitution requires cash bail as a method of ensuring a defendant will show up for court, and that lawmakers have long held the right to shape criminal justice policies.

The high court's decision, which could impact the landscape of criminal justice policy in Illinois for years to come, isn't expected for weeks.

The pretrial provisions are part of a 764-page law known as the SAFE-T Act, which was signed into law by Gov. J.B. Pritzker in early 2021. A Kankakee County judge's ruling in December siding with the plaintiffs came less than two weeks before cash bail was set to be abolished and led to confusion in courtrooms across the state.

The state Supreme Court stepped in hours before the measures were to take effect on New Year's Day, halting implementation until it rules on the matter.

On Tuesday, justices asked Kwame Raoul's office about why lawmakers did not seek to eliminate cash bail via a referendum to voters, as the plaintiffs argued should have happened. The justices asked the plaintiffs how the elimination of cash bail is different from legislative policies that require judges to impose certain sentences — such as mandatory minimums — for specific crimes.

"The circuit court's unprecedented decision … would tie the General Assembly's hands for decades to come, prohibiting it from setting public policy in the area of criminal procedure," Deputy Solicitor General Alex Hemmer argued on behalf of the AG's office.

Prosecutors have contended the SAFE-T Act law violates the constitution's separation of powers clause by taking away power from judges, and also infringes on the rights of crime victims.

Justice Joy Cunningham cut to the heart of the issue, asking Rowe: "What's the purpose of setting monetary bail as you see it?"

Rowe replied that cash bail balances defendants' interest in liberty with "society's interest in securing and ensuring the defendant does appear for trial to participate in the court process."

"Is money the only way to achieve those ends?" Cunningham asked Rowe.

"I don't believe the plaintiffs are arguing money is the only way," Rowe answered. But, he added, "Judges should have that tool that the people of Illinois have put in the judges' toolbox."

In response to arguments from the state, Justice Lisa Holder White asked Hemmer whether the law's provisions deprive judges of power to manage proceedings. He responded that the law still allows courts to detain some defendants, and lays out a range of conditions for release such as electronic monitoring and home confinement.

"Those provisions do not violate the separation of powers of principles that you described," he said.

"But a court can't set bail," Holder White countered.

"That's true your honor. But I want to be very clear that … this court has never held that courts have an inherent power to set monetary bail," he said.

After the hearing, Raoul said there's nothing specific in the state constitution that mandates cash bail "as an official surety."

"I think the plaintiffs could not overcome that," Raoul said. "There's no language in the constitution that says you have to have monetary bail. … That is something that any lay person can sit and read (in) the constitution and know that sufficient sureties can refer to a wide range of things."

The attorney general's office has pushed back on the argument that lawmakers should have put the matter before voters as a proposed amendment to the state constitution.

"It could arguably be considered but it wasn't necessary. That's the point," said Raoul, a former state senator. "During my 14 years in the legislature, I affected policy on a great number of things. … The legislature still sets mandatory minimums and maximums and that happens all the time. We don't put it up to referendum (for the voters)."

Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, stressed that maintaining a cash bail system is crucial in helping law enforcement fight crime.

"We feel very strongly that it's a serious public safety issue but at the same time, we want to join in the fight toward reforming bail. We realize that that's an absolute requirement," Glasgow said. "But there are also situations where the courts have to have the ability to control in cases of violence, and that's our main concern here."

Pritzker at an unrelated news conference in Normal, said he watched portions of the arguments on a video feed while traveling.

"My view is the SAFE-T Act is actually keeping people much safer," Pritzker said, speaking as if the pretrial provisions were not on hold. "And what it's doing is keeping violent criminals in jail, not allowing them to have bail, but taking nonviolent criminals and saying that there's no reason for us to have to pay for you to sit in jail when you can't afford the few hundred dollars to get out of jail."

The pretrial provisions would allow judges to detain defendants for some crimes if they're deemed a flight risk or, for more serious crimes, if they're considered a danger to society.

Buckley reported from Chicago. Chicago Tribune's Rick Pearson contributed.

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Jury selection begins in 'ComEd Four' bribery case

By Jason Meisner and Ray Long
Chicago Tribune

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TOP LEFT: Michael McClain arrives at the U.S. Dirksen Courthouse on Tuesday, the first day of the "ComEd Four" bribery conspiracy trial. **TOP RIGHT:** Lobbyist and former ComEd executive John Hooker enters the courthouse. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Jay Doherty, right, arrives at the courthouse. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Anne Pramaggiore walks down Dearborn Street following the first day of the trial.

More that two years after their indictment, the defendants known as the "ComEd Four" entered Chicago's downtown federal courthouse for the first time on Tuesday to face charges alleging they conspired to bribe former House Speaker Michael Madigan.

After about seven hours of questioning potential jurors in the hot-button case, U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber wrapped for the day about 5 p.m., with a pool of just over 60 members of the panel told to come back to court Wednesday for another round.

On trial are Madigan's longtime confidant, Michael McClain, 75, of downstate Quincy, former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore, 64, ex-ComEd lobbyist John Hooker, 73, and Jay Doherty, 69, a lobbyist and consultant who formerly led the City Club of Chicago. All of the defendants have pleaded not guilty to charges of bribery conspiracy.

The indictment filed in November 2020 alleged the defendants orchestrated a scheme to funnel jobs and hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments from the utility to Madigan-approved consultants in exchange for Madigan's assistance with legislation the utility giant wanted passed, or blocked, in Springfield.

The indictment also alleged ComEd agreed to hire numerous summer interns from Madigan's 13th Ward, and install former McPier boss Juan Ochoa on the company's board of directors in order to curry favor with the then-powerful speaker.

Madigan has pleaded not guilty to a separate indictment brought in March 2022 charging him with racketeering conspiracy for an array of alleged schemes, including the ComEd bribery plot. He is set for trial in April 2024. McClain is also charged in that case.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's highly anticipated trial opened with a battle over whether secret federal recordings would be released to the news media while the trial is in progress.

Tuesday's highly anticipated trial opened with a battle over whether secret federal recordings would be released to the news media while the trial is in progress.

Attorneys for McClain, who as Madigan's longtime confidant is accused of quarterbacking the bribery scheme, argued that releasing the recordings, such as wiretaps, could result in jurors flipping through radio or TV channels and hearing selected snippets that newsrooms would present "in the most entertaining form as possible."

"To be blunt," attorney Patrick Cotter said, "the only issue here is one of ratings."

Leinenweber had ruled in favor of Cotter's argument last week that the recordings should not be released during the trial. The judge said then that transcripts would be available as soon as they are entered into evidence.

"Absolutely nothing has changed," Cotter argued.

But news groups intervened Tuesday, including the Chicago Tribune, arguing the public should not be "deprived" of hearing recordings that could involve a variety of folks, including Madigan, the longest-serving legislative leader in American history.

"The issue is not a matter of ratings," argued Brian Saucier, attorney for the news media, but rather a "question of good journalism."

Saucier, citing a case involving former President Richard Nixon, who tried to block release of his White House recordings, also maintained a "cold transcript doesn't convey" the information on the recordings as well as the actual audio itself.

Cotter countered that a judge has "discretion" to allow or disallow release of the recordings during the trial.

But Leinenweber noted that previous judicial decisions are "one-sided" in favor of immediate access to the recordings when they are presented in court and granted immediate access to the news outlets.

After reversing course and saying he'd allow the recordings to be disseminated, Leinenweber began questioning the first pool of 70 prospective jurors.

The judge did most of the questioning in sidebar, including asking about their answers on a questionnaire about any feelings they have about lobbyists, ComEd, and Madigan.

Most of those who were excused Tuesday have stated that sitting for the expected six- to eight-week trial would be a hardship on their lives. Among those who made the cut:

— A Cook County assistant state's attorney assigned to the felony review unit, who said she could be impartial despite her job.

— A woman who said she worked for a utility in Arkansas for a few months in 2005.

— A lawyer for the ACLU of Illinois, who said she'd seen "headlines" about the case but didn't know details.

— A man who said he has a negative view of some of the FBI's senior leaders due to "politicization" of the agency, but respects the agents on the ground.

Due to COVID-19 protocols, Tuesday marked the first time any of the four defendants has set foot in person in the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse since the indictment was filed nearly 2 ½ years ago.

Before questioning began, attorneys for the defendants stood with their clients at the two long defense tables to the left of the judge's bench and introduced themselves to the jury pool.

Pramaggiore, dressed in a black-and-white checkered shirt, nodded slightly and smiled when her attorney, Scott Lassar, introduced her. Doherty took off his face covering and said "good morning," while Hooker and McClain also smiled and greeted those in the courtroom.

The judge started to move on before realizing he'd inadvertently forgotten to introduce the government lawyers and FBI agents seated at the prosecution table.

"Oh, sorry," Leinenweber said, as many in the courtroom burst into laughter. "Ladies and gentlemen, the government."

When jury selection resumes Wednesday, each side will get a chance to use their peremptory strikes and remove potential jurors from the pool. Ultimately, the judge has said he intends to seat a panel of 12 regular jurors and six alternates.

After the trial let out for the day, the defendants made their way out of the courthouse without comment.

McClain, accompanied by his wife and attorneys, turned back and glanced at the television cameras in the lobby, and quipped, "Five o'clock news."

"There you go," a member of his party said.

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City Council committee OKs pro-union ordinance

By Alice Yin
Chicago Tribune

An ordinance that would prevent social service organizations from cracking down on unionization in order to get city contracts cleared a key hurdle Tuesday, delivering Chicago labor groups a major victory despite attempts from a coalition of major nonprofits to kill it.

The measure, dubbed a "labor peace agreement," passed a City Council committee and will go for a vote before the full City Council on Wednesday. The once-dormant proposal has been in the works for three years and found new life in an election year that would strengthen the labor rights of those who work for organizations that serve the city within the public health and family and support sectors.

The ordinance maintains that nonprofits receiving city funds agree not to disrupt efforts by their employees to unionize while the workers agree not to go on strike, boycott or otherwise halt business. It would apply to any organization with 20 or more employees and does not exempt religious organizations.

Ahead of the vote, a representative from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago asked council members to delay voting on the measure, while Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce CEO Jack Lavin warned the ordinance would have a chilling effect on residents who need services from the nonprofits. The Chicago Archdiocese also wrote a letter opposing the ordinance, saying it would hurt the Catholic Charities of Chicago.

"These organizations — all of whom provide critical services in every ward across Chicago — would be devastated by this proposed ordinance," Lavin said. "Simply put, this ordinance would cripple these organizations' ability to support our most vulnerable populations with the vital services they need."

Chicago Federation of Labor President Bob Reiter and Adrienne Alexander, intergovernmental affairs director for the local chapter of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, supported the measure.

"Right now, what's been happening with some agencies where their workers have tried to organize, the workers have faced thousands of dollars in anti-union consultants and law firms that have tried to discourage unionization," Alexander said.

The measure passed the joint health and workforce committee 24-5, with Aldermen Roderick Sawyer, 6th, Jason Ervin, 28th, Walter Burnett, 27th, Matthew O'Shea, 19th, and Thomas Tunney, 44th, voting in opposition.

Mayor Lori Lightfoot's administration hasn't taken a position on the ordinance.

On Tuesday, Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady warned that the restrictions included in the ordinance would backfire because the city needs to contract with nonprofits to provide services more than those organizations need city funds. Arwady urged council members to slow down the process because she hasn't seen the latest version of the ordinance, which sparked an argument over communication between the City Council and Lightfoot's administration.

"All due respect, Dr. Arwady, this has been a three-year process," said Ald. Sue Sadlowski Garza, 10th, an outgoing member of the City Council who heads the workforce development committee. "If you haven't seen this ordinance in three years, then shame on this administration."

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Police

from Page 1

disciplinary cases involving Chicago police officers and whose members are mostly attorneys.

"You have multiple lenses making up this commission. That in and of itself should yield — or at least should lend to — a more robust conversation about what a good candidate should have," said Mecole Jordan-McBride, the advocacy director of the Chicago Neighborhood Policing Initiative who helped organize the push for the new community commission.

Brown's last day is Thursday. The commission has already announced a national search and scheduled listening sessions across the city to solicit community input. According to the new selection rules, the group has 120 days — until July 14 — to present its choices to the next mayor.

In the meantime, Brown's deputy, Eric Carter, will lead the department's 11,700 sworn members and, for now, decide how to deploy them during the summer months, when violent crime typically rises.

Different approaches

Mayoral candidates Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas — who both pledged to fire Brown, if elected — have said they prefer a local nominee but declined to name their potential shortlists at a recent NBC Chicago debate.

"You have to have compassion, be collaborative and competent. I'm looking for someone who possesses those qualities" and is "tethered to the city of Chicago," Johnson said. Shortly after Brown announced his exit, Johnson told WTTW he would search "for the right talent all over the country, if necessary."

Despite Johnson's past explicit support of the "defund" movement, his plan for public safety maintains "the current CPD budget while making the department more efficient and providing new investments in additional public safety initiatives outside of the police department, including new teams of non-personnel first responders for mental health crisis calls," according to his campaign. He has also called for the promotion of 200 detectives to help improve the department's clearance rate but has not specified whether he would fill posts left empty by those promotions.

Vallas' campaign has been centered on law and order: He courted and won the support of the Fraternal Order of Police, helped negotiate the union's latest contract and has family in law enforcement. He has pledged to boost the ranks up to 13,500 members, encourage "proactive policing," including ramping up low-level arrests, and revoke the city's foot pursuit policy, which was instituted after back-to-back fatal police shootings of two people, including 13-year-old Adam Toledo, who were being chased by officers.

When Brown announced his resignation, Vallas released a statement pledging to select a candidate who would "prioritize community policing, end the failed friends and family promotion system and invest in building trust between the police and our communities."

Ald. Nicholas Sposato and Chicago police Superintendent David Brown shake hands Jan. 25 during a ribbon-cutting event for the new Public Safety Training Center on the West Side. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

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Police Superintendent

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and First Deputy Superintendent Eric Carter congratulate new officers during a Chicago Police Department graduation ceremony at Navy Pier on March 7.

"I have talked to specific police officers in senior levels of responsibility," Vallas said when asked at the NBC Chicago debate about his superintendent choice. "Take this to the bank: I will promote all the officers from within, both interim superintendent, first deputy, chief of patrol, as well as evaluate who's been promoted into the exempt ranks."

Past searches

Close department watchers say a brain drain in recent years has led to a shallow bench, a symptom of dwindling police ranks locally and nationally.

Whether recently exited leaders would return is an open question. Interest in the superintendent job has dropped: According to the city's Police Board, there were 44 applicants during the 2011 search, 39 in the 2016 search and 25 in 2020.

Among the prominent departures: Chief of Detectives Brendan Deenihan, who left for a job at Google earlier this year; executive director of constitutional policing and reform Robert Boik, who was fired last summer after criticizing some of Brown's staffing decisions; counterterrorism Chief Ernest Cato III, a former finalist for the superintendent job who retired abruptly last year; Chief of Operations Fred Waller, who retired in 2020; and Deputy Superintendent of the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform Barbara West, who retired not long after Waller.

Anthony Riccio, who stepped down as first deputy superintendent in 2020 and is now director of public safety at Monterrey Security, said the effects of that brain drain "have really been evident" since Brown took over, noting how many officers — including himself — left early during Brown's tenure.

Brown rapidly promoted people into those jobs that predecessors had spent years preparing for, gaining valuable exposure and leadership skills, Riccio said. "There's experience that comes with every rank, and you need to spend time in those ranks in order to gain that knowledge and that experience in order to gain credibility among rank and file."

Even so, Riccio said he's spoken to retired CPD leaders "who I feel would want to come back ... and get the department back on the right track," depending on the outcome of the mayoral election. Given the complexity and politics of running CPD, he said, "I don't think we can keep going outside the department."

The selection of a new top cop during an inflection point is nothing new for Chicago. Modern mayors have swung between favoring outsiders who bring a fresh perspective to the crises of the day and department veterans who know the city and have the trust of the rank and file.

The first outsider to break a 50-year run of insider superintendents was Jody Weis, an FBI veteran chosen by then-Mayor Richard M. Daley in the wake of a scandal surrounding the Special Operations Section and infamous barroom beating by Officer Anthony Abbate. Weis started in 2008 and left in 2011, right as Mayor Rahm Emanuel was taking office.

Terry Hillard, who had served as superintendent between 1998 and 2003, was named the interim superintendent following Weis' exit. Emanuel, seeking an outsider, ran a "separate but parallel" recruiting process alongside the Police Board. He was outspoken about picking his own top cop, the Tribune reported at the time. He ultimately landed on New Yorker Garry McCarthy.

But by 2016, the city was left reeling for several months after the video release of Laquan McDonald's murder by Chicago police Officer Jason van Dyke, and McCarthy was fired amid the public fallout, including allegations of a cover-up. Emanuel opted for an insider: longtime Chicago cop Eddie Johnson, who did not apply for the job.

In hiring Johnson, Emanuel officially scrapped a list of three finalists his appointed Police Board had sent him after conducting a national search. The City Council's public safety committee passed an ordinance introduced by Emanuel that bypassed the Police Board process for picking candidates. It was automatically repealed following the next City Council meeting in April 2016.

When Johnson announced his retirement from CPD, Lightfoot took the unusual step of tapping an outsider, former Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck, to fill the role on an interim basis in the fall of 2019. Before Johnson could step down, however, Lightfoot abruptly fired him, saying he'd intentionally misled her about his conduct after he was found asleep in his running vehicle near his South Side home.

Lightfoot, too, opted for an outsider: former Dallas Chief David Brown. Her announcement came one day after the Police Board named Brown among its three finalists. Lightfoot told reporters Brown's name was "certainly on my radar screen" at the beginning of the process, and the head of the board says he had kept her apprised of their search efforts throughout.

Ghian Foreman, who's served on the Police Board since 2010, said the City Council deserved as much blame as Emanuel for subverting the board's process when he picked Johnson. Lightfoot, similarly, was overly criticized for "hand-picking" Brown, Foreman said. "Every superintendent is the mayor's hand-picked superintendent."

Wexler said he hopes the community commission works with the next mayor, since he will ultimately be the one to wear the jacket for the department's performance. "But this is new in Chicago, I don't know how this is going to play out."

New system

The commission was created after decades of organizing dating back to the 1969 police killing of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton. Community-led oversight of the department was a key call among reformers and protesters following Laquan McDonald's death, but it was sidelined repeatedly during Emanuel and Lightfoot's tenures before finally passing in 2021.

Commission President Anthony Driver said its mission is "to inject the community's voice into the process" and predicts this search will "be the most transparent process the city's ever had."

Transparency can have its drawbacks, Wexler points out: Applicants should expect to have their candidacy made public if they make the final three. That could dissuade people from applying for fear of losing their current jobs if their name is made public but they aren't selected.

Commission members are still weighing whether to work with an outside search firm and to what extent they will solicit input from CPD's rank and file. Driver and other commission members have spoken with officers, but there has been pushback from "brass," he said.

The commission will be guided in part by goals it set for the superintendent before Brown resigned. Among them: improving department culture around wellness "to help officers manage their stress and trauma appropriately, reduce officer suicides and improve morale." Another goal is "stable assignments for patrol officers to allow them to develop longer-term relationships with community members and supervisors."

"I think rank and file wants a leader that will support them. ... What we saw over these last two years in particular was a lot of days off canceled, a lot of overtime, a lot of shifting of officers, and I don't think that lends to great morale," NPI's Jordan-McBride said.

Her group connects officers with community members to solve problems that lead to crime like closing up abandoned buildings where gangs can take over or working with gas station owners to help prevent carjackings.

Like cops, community members want consistency in beat assignments, too, she says — it helps build relationships and trust. "We have community members that were like, 'Oh my God, I have such a great relationship with this officer, and then it was just gone. No warning, no nothing.' "

Driver is looking for a collaborator who "will work well with commission, with the administration, who can bring stakeholders together, work with different community groups and who understands this is no longer a top down system," he said.

Experts say the next superintendent will have to balance relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, often with conflicting interests: commissioners and the public they represent, the mayor and members of the City Council (like the mayoral race, leadership of the public safety committee is also up for grabs), as well as parties to the consent decree.

Then there's the recently reelected leader of the local police union, John Catanzara, who led a no-confidence vote on Brown, and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, whose office prosecutes CPD's cases. Brown and Foxx often clashed publicly about their respective agency's responses to the recent surge in violence.

Several experts, including Deborah Witzburg, the city's inspector general, who previously ran the watchdog agency's public safety section, said prioritizing the consent decree should be among the next superintendent's top priorities. Reformers, including the attorney general's office, note that compliance has been slow: Through last June, the city had reached at least some level of compliance with 78% of provisions reviewed in the consent decree, but it fully complied with only about 5%.

As it stands, Witzburg said, "The city's efforts to comply with the consent decree are at risk of stalling entirely. ... I worry very much about this misimpression that police reform and public safety are mutually exclusive alternatives."

She added: "If there is a single foundational truth here, it is that police reform is not an alternative to public safety, it's a prerequisite to it. The only way we are going to keep people safer is by reforming the police department. That, from my perspective, is the kind of bedrock principle that lives beneath and beyond all of these changing and shifting circumstances."

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Democrats file another complaint against Dan Proft

They allege he failed to disclose PAC contributions

By Rick Pearson
and Jeremy Gorner
Chicago Tribune

For the second time in four months, the Illinois Democratic Party has filed a complaint with the State Board of Elections against right-wing radio talk show host and GOP political operative Dan Proft, this time alleging he failed to disclose $1.2 million in contributions to the conservative political action committee he runs.

Proft's independent expenditure PAC, People Who Play By The Rules, was almost entirely funded by ultraconservative billionaire megadonor Richard Uihlein. The PAC spent tens of millions of dollars in an unsuccessful effort to boost conservative GOP governor candidate Darren Bailey, who was defeated by progressive billionaire Gov. J.B. Pritzker 55% to 42% in November.

Proft, who lives in Naples, Florida, has long been a controversial political figure, and his political activities have been subject to other allegations of wrongdoing before the elections board in past years.

The latest complaint, filed Tuesday by Ben Hardin, the executive director of the Democratic Party of Illinois, accuses Proft of committing "one of his most egregious" violations of the law yet by failing to disclose all of his PAC's financial records "completely and accurately."

"Mr. Proft is keenly aware of the disclosure requirements found in the (law)," the complaint alleges. "He has served as the chair and treasurer of several political committees spanning more than a decade and has been the subject of multiple matters before this board. And yet, Mr. Proft appears to have again completely disregarded the (law)."

Proft could not immediately be reached for comment.

In the latest quarterly campaign finance disclosure report for the PAC, filed on Jan. 20 to cover the period from October through December of last year, Proft reported People Who Play By the Rules had a negative balance of $1.2 million, after raising $17.4 million and spending $18.6 million.

"While a PAC can incur more in obligated expenditures than it receives in contributions (as long as it properly discloses the debt), it cannot expend more funds than it receives in contributions unless it has received a loan or other receipts," the complaint says. "But the PAC's filing shows no debt, loans, or other receipts. Instead, it simply states that it expended more than $1.2 million more than it received."

State election law requires, among other things, campaign finance reports to include the names and mailing addresses of each person who contributed more than $150 during the reporting period and every loan received by the PAC exceeding $150. Contributions of $1,000 or more must be reported within five days of being received.

Uihlein, the founder of the Uline office supply and packaging firm, has long been Proft's financial patron. Records show Uihlein gave the People Who Play By The Rules PAC $42 million, including roughly $34 million from the time Bailey won the GOP nomination for governor in late June up to the November contest.

The latest complaint against Proft follows one filed by the state Democratic Party on Nov. 4, just days before the election, alleging Proft's PAC illegally coordinated with Bailey's campaign to oppose Pritzker's bid for reelection. As an independent expenditure PAC, People Who Play By The Rules is not allowed to coordinate spending activities with a political candidate.

The Tribune reported Proft tried to intercede in an internal dispute between the Bailey campaign and one of his former political workers over an unspecified human resources matter. The complaint noted Proft's involvement in the personnel incident and also alleged that illegal coordination between Proft and Bailey occurred involving Bailey's appearances on Proft's conservative radio talk show.

The complaint accused Proft of "consistently" acting in "cooperation, consultation, or concert" with the Bailey campaign and that his communications amount to improper "in-kind" contributions, which don't represent cash, but donated services or expenses that help campaigns.

A hearing officer for the board of elections said the illegal coordination complaint was filed on "justifiable grounds," meaning the full board will hear arguments from both sides in the coming weeks to determine whether Proft committed any wrongdoing.

During last year's general election, Proft was also involved in political mailers disguised as newspapers that were sent to thousands of homes across the state, disseminating disinformation to disparage Pritzker. In 2016, a similar mailing effort funded by a previous Proft independent expenditure PAC was cited by the State Board of Elections for illegal coordination with candidates.

Gorner reported from Springfield.

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Dan Proft is interviewed in 2009, when he was a candidate for Illinois governor. **CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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Fires

from Page 1

home so that tragedies like the Humboldt Park fire are not repeated. But their efforts have been repeatedly undermined by real estate interests, by Chicago Fire Department officials who have lobbied to delay and weaken regulations, and by lackluster outreach and spotty enforcement on the part of city officials, an investigation by the Illinois Answers Project and the Tribune found.

Researchers have long pointed to higher incidences of fire deaths in homes that lack working smoke alarms. The trend has carried through recent tragedies in Chicago.

Illinois Answers and the Tribune found that smoke alarms were absent, defective or missing batteries in 57 out of 87 fatal residential fires in Chicago from 2020 through 2022. In eight of the incidents, investigators were unable to determine whether the alarms had been working.

"If you don't have working smoke alarms, your awareness that there is a fire is going to be somewhat delayed," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at the National Fire Protection Association. "And the longer that delay is, the less time you're going to have to escape — if you can escape at all."

A new city ordinance now requires property owners who install or replace their smoke alarms to mount detectors built with either a hardwired electrical connection or a sealed internal battery designed to last 10 years, instead of alarms with removable, 9-volt batteries that need to be replaced twice a year. The legislation was designed to decrease the burden on tenants by requiring landlords and homeowners to make sure long-lasting detectors are installed, so renters would not have to change the batteries so frequently.

But the ordinance and a corresponding change in state law have been hobbled by watered-down regulations, sluggish follow-through and inconsistent enforcement, undercutting the city's efforts to keep families safe from house fires.

Slow-moving law

All Illinois homes have been required since 1988 to be outfitted with working smoke alarms.

The law also mandated that new apartment buildings have hardwired detectors and alarms built in. Researchers across the country consistently saw fire deaths plummet in cities that added new smoke alarm regulations, Carli said. A 2021 study by the National Fire Protection Association found that the death rate from U.S. structure fires is 55% lower in properties with working smoke alarms than in homes with no alarms or with alarms that don't work.

In 2015, advocates from the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance went to Springfield, arguing Illinois' law was due for an update. Many landlords, they said, were still installing the kind of detector that required tenants to buy a new battery for the alarm every six months.

"Unfortunately, we see a lot of injuries or deaths occur in homes where there's a smoke alarm on the ceiling, but there's no battery in there," said Philip Zaleski, executive director of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance. "Maybe they took it out and used it for the remote control, or maybe the closest one to the kitchen ... was always going off when they were cooking."

By 2015, cities and states around the country were already starting to push regulations toward a newer, "set-it-and-forget-it" model of portable alarm containing a sealed, tamper-proof battery built to last for 10 years without maintenance. Philadelphia, which has its own legacy of fire tragedies due to a crowded, aging building stock, became an early adopter when it passed an ordinance in 2013 requiring homes to update their detectors.

But when Zaleski and other advocates brought the idea to Springfield in 2015, they hit a wall of opposition — especially from the state's powerful real estate lobby.

"We were initially strongly opposed to the bill," Greg St. Aubin, a lobbyist with the Illinois Realtors, said in an interview. "We all care about fire safety, but c'mon now — you've got a smoke detector company coming to the General Assembly basically saying, 'I want you to pass a law that requires everyone in the state to buy a new smoke detector.' "

St. Aubin noted that the older, replaceable-battery detectors typically cost only a few dollars each. Modern, sealed-battery detectors can run $20 or more.

"That can mean the difference of a few less meals for some people," St. Aubin said.

Advocates for the legislation later returned with a softer proposal. They agreed to a five-year buffer for implementation, so the requirement for modern alarms would not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2023. And even then, property owners would be required to install sealed-battery alarms only after their existing devices, which are designed to last up to 10 years, reached the end of their working lives.

"Our mission was to say, 'Let's not do this overnight,' " St. Aubin said. "Let's have a reasonable period where this technology can seep into the retail marketplace ... and if someone has a battery detector that's still working, there should be no reason to get rid of it."

The bill signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2017 not only left open the possibility for landlords to keep older alarms in their buildings through 2032 — it also included no requirement for retailers to stop selling the older model of detectors in 2023.

"I wish it would have gone into effect sooner, but I understand the need for us to do it gradually," said former state Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison), who sponsored the bill in the House. "We knew fire departments had stockpiles of thousands of the battery-operated ones. We didn't want those to go to waste."

The Chicago Fire Department successfully pushed for the city to be exempted from the law.

Department leaders said they feared the higher price tag on the sealed-battery detectors could deter some landlords and homeowners, according to Fire Department spokesperson Larry Langford.

"Our reasoning was, any UL-approved detector is better than no detector," Langford wrote in a statement. "Looking at what money you must invest, the cost of 20 dollars per unit may cause you to hold off despite any reality about long-term savings" from not having to replace the battery.

Getting Chicago on board

Ald. Gilbert Villegas (36th) kicked off his second term in the City Council with a 2019 proposal to close the Chicago loophole and bring the city into the jurisdiction of the updated smoke alarm law.

"We were two years behind (the rest of the state) and we had some concerns, because we saw that there were fires that were predominantly happening in low-income housing and in apartment buildings," Villegas said. "So we just wanted to bring everyone into uniform (rules)." The alderman again ran into pushback from the Chicago Fire Department. Department leaders argued the switch-up would disrupt the fire department's regular practice of giving away cheap, replaceable-battery detectors in the city neighborhoods.

Officials were "concerned that due to the cost being four times higher, CFD might not be able to get as many units as before to distribute to the public for free," Langford wrote in his statement.

But disrupting the giveaways of outdated detectors was part of the plan, Villegas said.

"We hand the constituent a 99-cent smoke detector, but we don't know if it gets installed properly — or gets installed, period," Villegas said. "In some instances,

Turn to Fires, *Page 9*

A 2002 photo shows a Chicago Fire Department official holding up a smoke detector without a battery after a fatal apartment fire. **HEATHER STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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A firefighter shows one of the long-lasting smoke detectors that were being given away in December. The detectors are considered more reliable since residents don't have to change the batteries often. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

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Fires

from Page 8

there's been fires, and they find these smoke detectors that have been given out sitting on the kitchen table or in a drawer."

Villegas' ordinance cleared the City Council Zoning Committee in March 2020. But when it reached the full City Council at a virtual meeting the next month, members took turns airing misgivings about the measure following a fresh round of lobbying from fire department leaders.

"It's disheartening that the (fire) department we all rely on does not support this," Ald. Anthony Beale (9th) said at the April 24 meeting. "This ordinance is going to add an undue burden on our taxpayers and senior citizens who are trying to make ends meet. Why are we making them buy detectors that are more expensive?"

After seven other aldermen raised similar objections, Villegas agreed to shelve the ordinance.

It would be another year until Fire Department leaders softened their opposition after the ordinance was tweaked to ensure that no property owner would be fined for providing an older-model smoke alarm until 2033.

The compromise ordinance, which the City Council ultimately approved in February 2021, declared that any new alarms installed in apartments after Jan. 1, 2022, would have to include tamper-proof batteries. The rule would kick in one year later for homeowners.

It also doubled the fine for smoke alarm violations from $500 to $1,000 per offense for homeowners, and from $1,000 to $2,000 for apartment landlords.

Chicago firefighters continued to hand out detachable-battery alarms until Jan. 1 of this year, Langford said. That means the fire department provided the devices for a full year after they were no longer legal to install in apartment units.

Firefighters target single-family homeowners for smoke detector giveaways and pass out "educational materials" instead when they visit "large apartment buildings," Langford wrote in an email.

The tougher regulations soon ran into a new problem. Without a concerted education campaign by the city, the new rules hit the books on New Year's Day without many landlords and retailers even knowing.

Snow blankets the 4000 block of West Potomac Avenue in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood in January. Last year, four children were pulled from a fire in a unit where there was no working smoke alarm. All four later died. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Crosses with handwritten messages lean against a fence at the Children's Garden of Hope, a place where the four children killed in the fire had frequently played. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Ald. Gilbert Villegas talks about new smoke detector rules at a sparsely attended City Hall news conference on Jan. 4. **VICTOR HILITSKI/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Uneven regulations, little public outreach

Late last year, Steve Shah took a trip to Costco to buy some replacement smoke alarms for the buildings he owns. His properties, located mostly in the Rogers Park and West Ridge neighborhoods, comprise about 80 rental units, ranging from single-family homes to 20-unit courtyard buildings.

Shah said he saw a range of portable alarms for sale, including hard-wired detectors, modern sealed-battery detectors and cheaper devices with slots for 9-volt batteries. After weighing his options, he sprang for the sealed detectors.

"I'm glad I did, because I had no idea about this new law," Shah said in a December interview. "I have a lot of conversations with folks who own as little as one or as many as 1,000 units, and I believe most people don't know about it."

Shah, who is active in two Chicago landlord associations, said: "I'm part of a very small subset of property owners who are really engaged on these kinds of discussions. If it's not cascading through neighborhood groups, how is everyone else supposed to know about it?

"This is serious — I can be found at fault if something goes wrong," he added. "Ignorance is no excuse."

St. Aubin said legislators and lobbyists planned in 2017 to launch aggressive public awareness campaigns, but he acknowledged that the follow-through hasn't materialized.

Groups such as the Illinois Association of Realtors "would be doing education if there were a significant amount of chatter about this, but from our landlords at least, we haven't been hearing about it because most are already in compliance," St. Aubin said.

A previous version of the bill would have banned Illinois stores from selling smoke alarms that need frequent battery replacements, according to Willis, the law's sponsor. But she and other legislators took it out at the real estate lobby's behest.

"Banning the sale was just never going to happen," St. Aubin recalled of the statehouse negotiations. "These are national retail chains we're talking about. It would be a mess if they had to have 50 different kinds of smoke detectors all over the country."

Two years later, in 2019, New York City banned the sale of removable-battery smoke detectors. And the Chicago ordinance passed in 2021 included a ban on the sale of the old devices.

St. Aubin said he was confident that retailers would "naturally" transition to the newer model of smoke alarms.

"I'm sure the thinking at the time was that we would monitor it, but to be honest I'm not sure how much of that was done," the lobbyist said. "It would be interesting to see if you could even still find any of the dinosaurs still out there."

Illinois Answers reporters went to 10 hardware stores across Chicago and its suburbs, including locally owned shops and national chains, one week after the new regulations went into effect in January. Removable-battery detectors were displayed on sale at four of the stores, including two in Chicago, where those sales are prohibited by law.

Muted follow-through

On Jan. 4, Villegas held a news conference at City Hall alongside Zaleski of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson to promote the ordinance taking effect.

"We encourage everyone not to wait to go ahead and make the changeover to these new alarms," Zaleski said at the news conference. "Do that now for your homes and your families to be safe going forward."

Four reporters attended the media event, including two from the Illinois Answers Project.

No representatives of the Chicago Fire Department were present.

The low-key event was emblematic of the muted communication from city officials, and especially from the fire department, about the new smoke detector rules.

"Our public education unit spreads the word, as we also do using our media accounts such as Twitter and Facebook," Langford of the Chicago Fire Department wrote in his statement to Illinois Answers and the Tribune.

The fire department's Twitter account, which has more than 87,000 followers and typically posts multiple times a day with updates on various fire events around the city, made no mention of the new law taking effect on New Year's Day. In a tweet sent Jan. 1, the department merely urged residents to "choose a 10-year sealed battery alarm" when they need to buy a new device.

After Philadelphia passed its 2013 ordinance mandating the switch to sealed-battery detectors, that city's fire department launched a series of programs to make sure the newer models were being installed in homes across the city.

Between 2017 and 2019, the Philadelphia Fire Department installed more than 36,000 modern, sealed-battery alarms in people's homes, plus more than 3,000 "adaptive alarms" designed for deaf and hard-of-hearing residents. In 2022 alone, the department installed more than 27,000 alarms — all for free, and all in response to requests from residents.

The department employs three "around-the-clock community action teams that do nothing but survivor support, install smoke alarms and conduct fire safety checks," said Adam Thiel, who has been commissioner of the Philadelphia Fire Department since 2016.

"All they need to do is call 311, and we go out there and install them," Thiel said. "It's not a giveaway — we don't just hand them to people. We go in, do a fire safety check and install the smoke alarms to make sure they're installed properly and in the right places.

"If you have a brand-new smoke alarm sitting under your bed or in a drawer, it's not going to work as designed," he added.

While the Chicago Fire Department has created a program allowing seniors to request alarm installations, most of its service remains focused on handing out smoke detectors — especially after fatal fires, Langford said.

As recently as June 2022, days after the West Humboldt Park fire that claimed the lives of four children, firefighters were handing out detachable-battery alarms to neighbors on the Potomac Avenue block, multiple residents recalled.

"The fire department has come here before, even before the fire, giving out these detectors," said Ariel Garcia, 55, who lives on the block. "I just don't know what people are doing with them."

After the fire, investigators swept through the burned-out remains of the basement apartment and found no evidence of a working smoke alarm on a wall or ceiling, according to Chicago Fire Department records obtained by the Illinois Answers Project.

They did find alarms on the first and second floor of the building that sounded during the fire. Another was found in the basement common area — outside the apartment where the four children were trapped and suffocating — stored in a crate.

"A detector was present in the unit, but it either had no battery, or the battery was dead," Langford said. "In this case, you can't say the landlord was at fault for not mounting the unit. The liability was with the tenant, because the tenant is responsible for replacing the battery."

Contacted by reporters, a representative of the landlord declined to discuss the fire or conditions in the building. Efforts to reach the mother of the four children were not successful.

At the end of the block where the children lived is the Children's Garden of Hope, managed by Maura Madden. She recalled that the children played for countless hours in the park during the summer — including on the evening before the fire.

"I was down there for probably six hours and they were down there just making mud pies and playing with spiders," Madden said.

They talked in Spanish and gleefully threw spiders at her, she said. At night, she sent them home.

"Go home, a la casa," she told them.

More than six months later, four crosses leaned against a fence that surrounds the garden. Various messages were etched into the white wood, most of them in children's handwriting.

"Descansen en paz angelitos de Dios," read one in Spanish. It means: "Rest in peace, God's little angels."

This story is a collaboration between the Tribune and the Illinois Answers Project, a nonpartisan investigations and solutions journalism news organization published by the Better Government Association. Adriana Pérez is a Tribune reporter; Alex Nitkin and Kelli Duncan are reporters with the Illinois Answers Project.

Chemicals

from Page 1

forward," said EPA Administrator Michael Regan. "There is no doubt there is more work to be done."

Though the new limits will require an expensive overhaul of thousands of utilities across the nation, for now it appears Chicago and other Illinois communities that depend on Lake Michigan for drinking water will not be required to do anything other than test for the chemicals.

Limited testing by the Chicago Department of Water Management and the Illinois EPA has detected forever chemicals in treated Lake Michigan water but at levels below the new federal standards.

Peoria, where PFAS have been detected as high as 12.9 parts per trillion, is the largest Illinois city that will need to improve its treatment process, according to a Chicago Tribune analysis of water testing conducted by the state during the past two years.

In the Chicago area, the state's testing found PFAS exceeding the new federal standards in Cary, Channahon, Crest Hill, Fox Lake, Lake in the Hills, Marengo, Rockdale, South Elgin and Sugar Grove. All of those communities rely on wells; several have stopped using their most contaminated sources of drinking water.

President Joe Biden and Regan, a former top environmental regulator in North Carolina appointed to lead the EPA, came into office pledging to make regulating PFAS a priority after years of promises but little action by the federal government. Since the early 2000s it has largely been left to trial lawyers to pry industry studies and other records from PFAS manufacturers and seek payment and restitution for damages caused by the chemicals.

"Today we can celebrate a huge victory for public health in this country," said Rob Bilott, a Cincinnati attorney who launched the scrutiny of forever chemicals with lawsuits he filed against DuPont in Ohio and West Virginia during the 2000s.

The downtown Chicago skyline can be seen beyond the Harrison-Dever water intake crib in Lake Michigan on June 22. Water is pumped through a tunnel that runs underneath the lake and connects the crib complex to the James W. Jardine Water Purification Plant. Forever chemicals have been detected in treated Lake Michigan water but at levels below the new federal standards. **ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

"It has taken far too long to get to this point," Bilott said. "But the scientific facts and truth about the health threat posed by these man-made poisons have finally prevailed over the decades of corporate cover-ups and misinformation campaigns designed to mislead the public and delay action."

Once-secret 3M documents unearthed by Bilott and the Minnesota attorney general's office show top executives at the Minnesota-based conglomerate knew about the harmful effects of forever chemicals as early as the 1950s. 3M didn't begin telling the EPA what it knew about PFOS and PFOA until 1998 — more than two decades after Congress approved the nation's first chemical safety law.

3M and DuPont once billed the chemicals as miracles of science. But PFAS end up in lakes, rivers and wells after flushing through sewage treatment plants and spreading from factory smokestacks. Forever chemicals also leach out of products such as carpets, clothing, cookware, cosmetics, dental floss, fast-food wrappers, firefighting foam, food packaging, microwave popcorn bags, paper plates, pizza boxes, rain jackets and ski wax.

Nearly every American has PFAS in their bodies, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Babies are born with the chemicals in their blood.

Scientists are finding that tiny concentrations can trigger testicular and kidney cancer, birth defects, liver damage, impaired fertility, immune system disorders, high cholesterol and obesity. Links to breast cancer and other diseases are suspected.

The chief manufacturers, 3M and DuPont, have paid nearly $2 billion combined to settle PFAS-related lawsuits without accepting responsibility for contaminated drinking water or diseases suffered by people exposed to the chemicals. 3M has long maintained the chemicals are not harmful at levels typically found in people.

Under a November agreement between the EPA and 3M, the company is testing wells and public water systems near one of its PFAS manufacturing plants in Cordova, Illinois, where for decades it discharged the chemicals into the Mississippi River without limits about 15 miles upstream from the Quad Cities.

Drinking water in the region's population center is contaminated with the Scotchgard and Teflon chemicals at concentrations as high as 6.3 ppt, exceeding the standards announced Tuesday.

A 2022 Chicago Tribune investigation identified more than 1,600 other potential sources of PFAS in Illinois through a national analysis of industry codes designating the type of products manufactured or used. Only California, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Florida have more facilities on the list of suspected polluters.

More than 60% of the Illinois facilities are in Chicago and its suburbs, the Tribune found. There is at least one potential industrial source in 85 of the state's 102 counties, yet there are still no limits on the amount of PFAS pollution released into the air or discharged into sewers.

The new drinking water standards likely will trigger the first-ever national limits on industry pollution and could lead to restrictions on PFAS-contaminated sewage sludge distributed to farmers and gardeners as free fertilizer.

Some industry groups already are chafing about being forced to clean up the mess they blame on 3M, DuPont and other PFAS manufacturers.

Tom Dobbins, chief executive of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, said the trade group for some of the nation's biggest systems is "concerned about the overall cost drinking water utilities will incur to comply with this proposed rule-making."

The EPA estimates it will cost utilities $772 million a year to comply with the PFAS standards. Dobbins noted it has cost $43 million for just one system, the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority in North Carolina, to filter PFAS out of drinking water.

Utilities will be eligible to apply for federal grants and low-interest loans through a pot of money Congress earmarks every year for water and sewer improvements. Regan said the EPA will work closely with utilities in low-income and rural areas while distributing some of the $9 billion set aside last year for water projects.

Many utilities already have been planning to address PFAS contamination because states began moving several years ago to adopt their own standards in the absence of federal action. More than 20 states have adopted or proposed limits on PFAS in water, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

It remains unclear how federal standards will affect regulations proposed by the Illinois EPA. The state agency is calling for a limit of 2 parts per trillion of PFOA and 7.7 ppt of PFOS in groundwater that supplies public and private wells, and has announced plans to follow up with its own drinking water limits.

For environmental groups and activists who have long clamored for federal action, the Biden administration's proposal is welcome news.

"During these decades of lax regulatory oversight, scientific studies have discovered an increasing number of ways that PFAS wreak havoc in our bodies and harm our health," said David Andrews, a senior scientist at the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit research organization that has studied forever chemicals and advocated for federal regulations since the early 2000s. "Action to reduce exposure cannot come soon enough."

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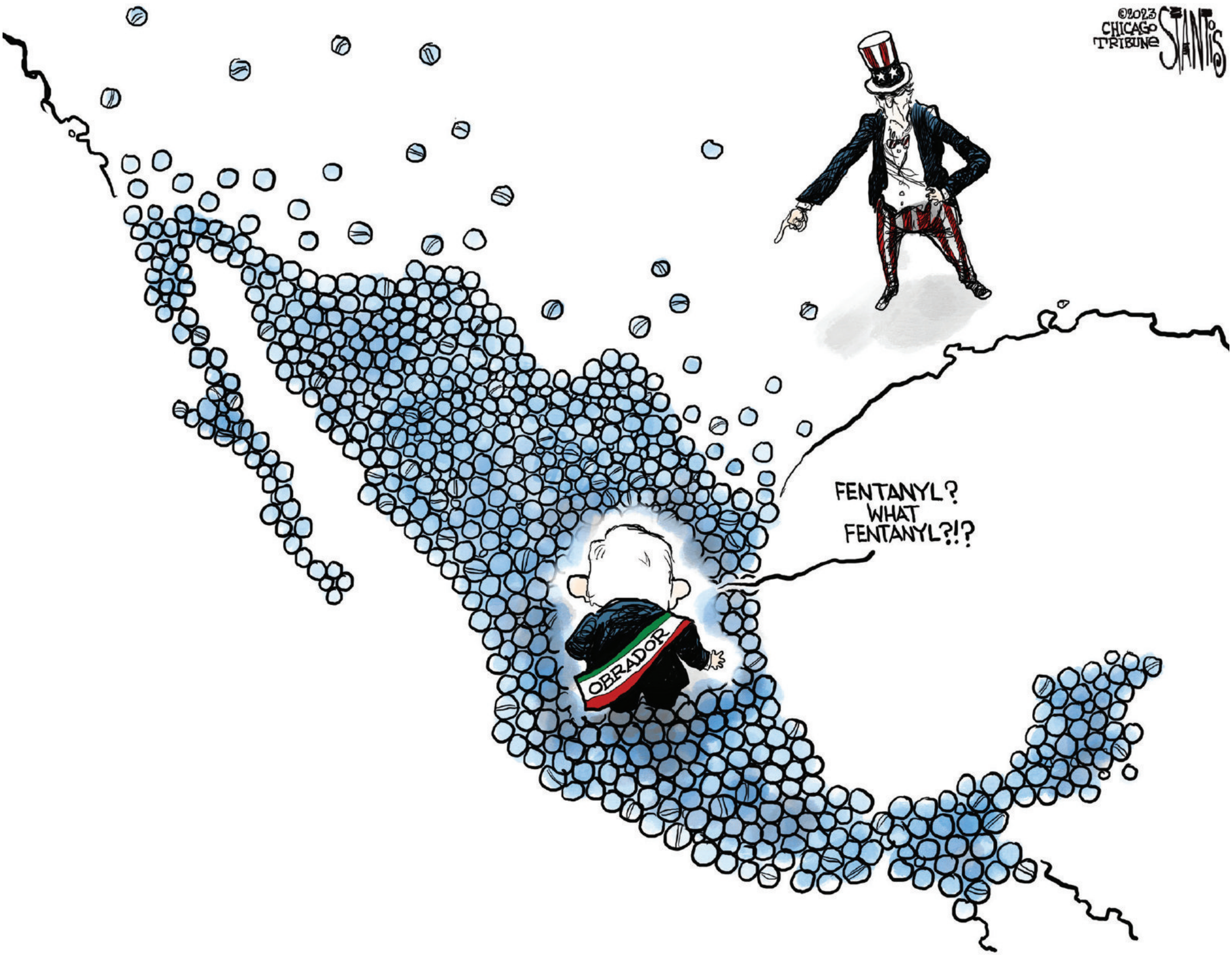

SCOTT STANTIS

Mexican President López Obrador's big lie: 'We do not produce fentanyl'

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador gestures during a news conference in Mexico City on Jan. 20. **ALFREDO ESTRELLA/GETTY-AFP**

America voted out of office its mendacious president in 2020. But across the border, Mexico grapples with its own delusional leader, who recently barked out a whopper of an untruth.

Meeting with White House Homeland Security Adviser Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador earlier this month insisted that his nation doesn't produce fentanyl, the synthetic opioid blamed for the deaths of more than 70,000 Americans in 2021.

"Here, we do not produce fentanyl, and we do not have consumption of fentanyl," the Mexican leader said. "Why don't they (the U.S.) take care of their problem of social decay?"

As lies go, López Obrador's remark ranks up there with Donald Trump's Big Lie that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him.

Mexico's notorious drug cartels have turned fentanyl production into one of their biggest moneymakers. A 2021 raid by the Mexican army on a lab in Culiacan, the capital of Mexico's Sinaloa state, revealed an operation producing tens of millions of fentanyl pills monthly for the Sinaloa cartel.

Sinaloa, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and other cartel groups have been flooding the border with shipments of fentanyl. Last year, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 379 million doses of fentanyl, but it's clear that a sizable portion of what the cartels smuggle makes it over the border and into U.S. cities and towns.

Perhaps López Obrador's lies are a way of deflecting attention from the failure of his "hugs, not bullets" approach toward combating the cartels. After his election in 2018, López Obrador promised Mexicans that he could eradicate the cartels by eradicating poverty. He put in place a series of social programs aimed at lifting up his country's impoverished masses, with the hope of wiping out the root causes of cartel violence.

The policy hasn't worked at all, and the cartels have flourished largely unchecked. Every year, cartel violence claims the lives of thousands of Mexicans, many of them students, politicians and journalists. Under López Obrador, Mexico's murder rate remains at near-record levels. The number of cartel drug labs under López Obrador has also soared.

At times, cartel violence has led to the deaths of Americans. Mexican authorities are still investigating what role a Mexican drug cartel may have played in the March 3 kidnapping of four Americans, and the deaths of two of those Americans, in the northern city of Matamoros. In 2019, nine members of a Mormon family with dual U.S.-Mexican citizenship were killed during a brutal ambush on their three sport utility vehicles in northern Mexico. Six of the dead were children, and a local drug cartel boss was later arrested in connection with the ambush.

In the U.S., fentanyl kills more Americans than traffic accidents and gun violence combined. Much of the fentanyl consumed in America comes in the form of fake pills crafted to look like everyday prescription drugs such as Xanax and OxyContin. The man-made opioid is the country's deadliest drug threat, with a potency 50 times higher than heroin.

The Biden administration says it's been pushing López Obrador to crack down much harder on the cartels, but clearly the message isn't getting through. Of course, threatening rhetoric from GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina hasn't helped. Graham on March 5 said he would like "to unleash the fury and might of the U.S. against these cartels," adding that the U.S. could send its troops into Mexico "to destroy drug labs that are poisoning Americans."

That's not a solution, and it's only going to give López Obrador an excuse to avoid cooperating with the U.S. in the fight against the cartels. Mexico Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard called Graham's remarks "catastrophic for bilateral anti-drug cooperation."

If López Obrador can set aside Graham's breathless threats, and he should, he'll see that he has ample incentive to cooperate with Washington's request for a Mexican-led clampdown on the cartels.

First, though he cannot legally seek another term, López Obrador likely wants to secure his legacy through the election of a loyalist successor in 2024. Maintaining antagonistic ties with the Biden administration won't help that cause, since the U.S. wields considerable economic and political influence in Mexico. The last thing López Obrador wants is for the Biden administration to put its clout behind an opposition candidate.

Beyond that, López Obrador can help himself and his country by finally realizing that treating the cartels with kid gloves only gives the drug lords license to ratchet up production — and mayhem. Mexico isn't a failed state just yet, but that's its trajectory unless it dramatically toughens up its treatment of the cartels.

We don't expect López Obrador to suddenly mend his ways and become a paragon of truth-telling. But his denial about fentanyl production in Mexico makes it doubly harder for the U.S. and his country to collaborate on eradicating the cartels. Maybe López Obrador is trying to save face by peddlingyet more of his lies, but he certainly isn't saving lives.

ABOUT SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES

On Wednesday, a majority of Democratic senators joined with Republicans to overturn a crime bill passed by Washington, D.C., officials. Congress can overturn bills passed by the local D.C. Council. The Senate is almost an even split, but the vote was a blowout — passing 81 to 14. The House had previously voted to overturn it, but the margin was much closer. In between those votes, President Joe Biden announced that he wouldn't veto the bill.

That was a flip-flop. His administration previously said it opposed the bill, citing his respect for the autonomy of local officials. Some criminal justice reform efforts over recent years have been needed. But hard-left Democrats are hopelessly out of touch with their "defund the police" rhetoric and coddling of repeat offenders. Proposals like this go far beyond what is prudent. It appears Biden realized as much and switched his position.

It's easy to understand why Democrats would have political worries about supporting this bill. It abolished mandatory minimum sentences from most crimes. That included carjacking, robbery and burglary. Videos of D.C. carjackings have gone viral in recent years. In a 2021 video, two teen girls ended up killing an Uber Eats driver and Pakistan immigrant as he hung on to the side of his car. D.C. officials didn't get rid of the minimum sentence for first-degree murder. But they did reduce the maximum sentence from life in prison to 51 years.

Under the proposal, any convicted criminal could ask for resentencing after serving 20 years of their sentence if a judge approved. D.C. already has a version of this for criminals who committed their crime when they were under 25. This proposal was so extreme that D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, vetoed it. She won't be mistaken for a conservative anytime soon. The D.C. Council then overrode her veto, setting up the congressional showdown. Crime isn't political popular, and politicians that allow it to fester tend not to last long in public office.

Las Vegas Review-Journal Editorial Board

OPINION

Chicago's next mayor should make the elusive American Dream accessible to all

By Jesús "Chuy" García

CTA Blue Line passengers crowd into an O'Hare-bound train at the Clark/Lake station during the afternoon rush on Feb. 7. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

My progressive values are well known and the core of what I have done to achieve my American Dream. The current election is a juncture for our city. The best path forward is one that allows all to follow the route to achieve their version of the American Dream, as I have. This path will take us to a welcoming, sanctuary city inclusive of all races, classes, backgrounds, family statuses and identities.

García

Unfortunately, Chicago continues to be defined by its legacy of redlining, racially based covenants and segregation, which is keeping the city from becoming a great, global city. We must remove barriers to economic mobility, education and job training opportunities. It's beyond time we re-envision equitable access to basic services such as transportation, public safety, environmental justice, housing and health care, while investing in sustainable revenue sources.

During my candidacy, I called for a Municipal Commission on Restitution to find ways to resolve the consequences of redlining, racial covenants, and other historically exclusionary laws and practices. It's not impossible — Evanston, for instance, has made strides. Chicago can and should do better.

The next mayor must commit to comprehensive development, focusing on revitalizing under-invested communities. Chicago used to be known as "the city that works." It is now best described as a city undercut by its departments and agencies' siloed and uncoordinated work — especially planning and development, housing, family services and public transportation.

This has to change. From the start, the new mayor should appoint a deputy mayor for transportation and infrastructure, as other mayors have done, to ensure that those departments and the CTA coordinate their planning and funding to establish stable, livable and walkable neighborhoods.

Such neighborhoods require regular, reliable, frequent and safe public transit, as do our businesses. Our regional transportation system is at an inflection point, and all public agencies recognize that we will reach a fiscal cliff in the next few years.

Public transit is a vital part of our city's social and economic well-being. The next mayor must restore reliability and confidence in the system and lead in charting public transit's fiscal and operational paths in metropolitan Chicago. This may require a reorganization of regional transportation. Chicago does not exist in isolation. The public demands regional solutions with transit workers and all other stakeholders at the table.

Such neighborhoods require affordable housing. We must do more than only invest in affordable housing and homes for the unhoused. We must address the Chicago Housing Authority's lengthy waitlist. We must also ensure that people are not driven out of their homes and small businesses by astronomical property tax bills due to gentrification. My plan should be implemented now to provide relief until Chicago negotiates its fair share of revenue from Springfield.

Neighborhoods must be safe, and we agree that people feel unsafe. We must focus on rebuilding trust between the police and the communities they serve. Police officers contend with poor working conditions. The next mayor must commit to full implementation of the consent decree. Solutions must include trauma-informed responses, particularly for vulnerable communities, including the LGBTQ+ community and gender-based violence survivors.

The next mayor must establish transparent zoning and permitting processes that give communities a meaningful say on industrial developments. Black and Latino residents are more likely to live close to industrial pollution and have chronic health conditions. My plan went beyond the mere reestablishment of a Department of the Environment, to also ensure community participation in building a robust green economy.

With that in mind, the next mayor must make a real commitment to unfettered health care access and healthy communities. This would require creating a new and expanded Department of Environment, a deputy mayor for gender equity and the economy, in addition to increased staffing in the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The pandemic taught us that our public health and health infrastructure is inadequate. The city must integrate its health services with the county health system and community health clinics to ensure that the combined system provides comprehensive health care, including mental health services. Every resident in every neighborhood must have access to comprehensive health and public health services, including gender-affirming care for LGBTQ+ individuals, abortion care and maternal health care for pregnant people.

Let's not forget — Chicago's future depends on continued immigration from all corners of the world. We must welcome immigrants and provide them with the tools to succeed. Community participation is integral to this process in order to ensure seamless integration. All government agencies should collaborate to provide wrap-around services that will lead to a strong transition including stable housing for new Chicagoans. We must remove all barriers to participation for our immigrant communities at the municipal level.

While not a monolith in Chicago, it's critical to recognize Latinos are emerging as a decisive voting bloc. We have been actively working with grass-roots organizations to expand the electorate and build the next generation of progressive Latino leaders advancing a working-class agenda to bring justice and equity to all of our communities. The increase in representation must be matched by the Chicago administration with equitable opportunities and investments.

Let me be clear: Any candidate hoping to champion the needs of the people I represent should demonstrate that commitment publicly — in practice, policy and the people hired to lead.

Chicagoans deserve a leader ready to champion and deliver a progressive and inclusive agenda rooted in justice and equity for all.

U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García represents Illinois' 4th District and is a former 2023 mayoral candidate.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

St. Pat's Day fellowship

The St. Patrick's Day celebration this past weekend in Chicago's Loop was a genuine coming together of Irish American families, Irish American workers and multiple organizations of the greater Chicagoland community in so many positive ways. So many of us have not experienced this since the arrival of COVID-19.

Fortunately, I had my Nikon camera with me, and I was able to capture several beautiful moments of Chicago togetherness, including the unplanned sharing of the celebration by Irish Chicagoland youths and African American bucket drummers, who regularly enliven visitors to the Loop.

As a Mexican American, I felt it was such a powerful moment, even if a temporary one, of the coming together of our beloved ethnically, racially and culturally diverse Chicagoland. You definitely had to be there to feel the power of community!

Let us never forget about our potential to come together in the city and beyond.

— Alejandro Lugo, Park Forest

In sympathy with firefighter

I hope that Chicago firefighter Walter Stewart knows that the whole city cries with him. The fire at his home has claimed his entire family. It is hard to imagine a greater tragedy.

Stewart should know that it's not just his Fire Department colleagues who are mourning and trying to support him as he buries his family. It's all of us citizens of Chicago.

— Roger Deschner, Chicago

Preserving historical gems

Thank you for the recent article on Chicago's endangered buildings ("Century-old Loop towers top most-endangered list again," March 9).

To anyone who doesn't believe these gems are worth saving, let me share a somber aphorism: Once they're torn down, they'll never come back.

— Dennis Allen, Wilmette

Knowing history matters

A wise person once said that if you look far enough into the past, you will see the future. Adam Selzer's March 10 op-ed on the 1899 mayoral race in Chicago was excellent and reinforces the point ("During 1899 mayor's race, a paper fanned flames of sensationalism").

We need the history reminders more than ever today.

— Mike Shields, Niles

People watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday in downtown Chicago. **SHANNA MADISON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Reporting on candidates

Considering the Tribune Editorial Board endorsed Paul Vallas for mayor, I feel that the Tribune has started publishing one-sided articles negatively portraying Vallas and not taking a similar approach to Brandon Johnson.

This newspaper should publish more balanced reporting when it comes to the mayoral race.

— Mike Swift, Chicago

Meddling by ComEd

In 2014 and again in 2016, I signed and passed around petitions supporting Change Illinois' fair maps campaign, and I attended a Board of Elections hearing that resulted in the matter getting kicked to the Illinois Supreme Court. We know how that went.

Yes, the court issued a decision. The auditor general would have had a role in the plan proposed, but the justices decided the condition could not stand based on interpretation of some abstract nouns in the Illinois Constitution's wording.

Now, a Jan. 12 article about ComEd and Michael Madigan ("'Made out like bandits'") tells me that Madigan backers had targeted the fair maps effort: "A group was seeking to change the process for redrawing legislative districts ... arguing that the maps should be fairer and not dominated by political leaders. ... (Ex-ComEd lobbyist John Hooker) headed a group that went to court to block the proposal."

So ComEd, via Hooker, was willing to insert itself into the political activity of Illinois citizens, and ComEd consumers, who hoped to participate in a constitutional process. Not only do I not trust the legislature, but also, move over and make room for the state Supreme Court. I feel disenfranchised.

Might this be a reason why residents leave the state?

— Barbara A. Mendelsohn, Niles

Silly clock gymnastics

I would like to suggest a solution to moving clocks backward and forward every November and March, respectively. Why not just settle on splitting the difference? Set it at 30 minutes between the two time differences and then just leave it alone. This should be an adequate solution to appease both arguments for and against changing the time.

I'm sure someone else has already thought of this, but I don't understand why it has never been implemented. Do we really need to exercise these clock gymnastics every year?

— Joseph Pollak, Chicago

Chicago's false spring

As I grow older, I've come to hate spring. That is, if you can call those two weeks in May a season. March and April are just a big tease with every week edging precariously closer to the end of all the cold and blustery weather. At least with winter, you know what you're getting, besides a blizzard of unpaid bills and a depleted bank account following the temporary glow of the holidays.

Even with the promise of warmer weather and longer daylight hours, we can never escape the haunting fear of yet another cold front landing on our doorstep.

And please, don't tell me the baseball season is only weeks away. I'd rather find out for myself that opening day has been canceled due to blowing and drifting snow!

— Bob Ory, Elgin

For online-exclusive letters, go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Email your letter submissions, 400 words or less, to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your full name, address and phone number.

OPINION

Former Vice President Mike Pence rebuked former President Donald Trump on Saturday for the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. **HIROKO MASUIKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Mike Pence still walks a shaky line between courage and cold feet

Clarence Page

Now Donald Trump wants to blame Mike Pence for the people who shouted, "Hang Mike Pence"?

Amazingly, the former president has sharply rebuked his former vice president's contention that history will hold Trump accountable for the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Instead Trump told reporters Monday that it is Pence who should bear the blame for the violent riot by Trump's supporters.

All he had to do, Trump said, was take the law into his own hands.

"Had he sent the votes back to the legislatures, they wouldn't have had a problem with Jan. 6," Trump said, referring to Pence's refusal to reject the Electoral College votes in Congress as Trump wanted him to do that day. "So in many ways you can blame him for Jan. 6."

"Had he sent them back to Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, the states, I believe, No. 1, you would have had a different outcome," Trump added. "But I also believe you wouldn't have had 'Jan. 6,' as we call it."

Isn't that classic Trump? When reality doesn't suit him, he bends it.

Trump sounds like he is still clinging to the ambiguous provisions of the 1887 Electoral Count Act, with which some of his lawyers tried unsuccessfully to delay or even overrule the 2020 electoral vote count that President Joe Biden won.

Congress has since updated the act, but Trump still hangs on to the old ambiguities, if only to stir more suspicions like those that drove the pro-Trump Jan. 6 mob after months of the former president's false stolen election claims.

Trump had been asked about Pence's criticisms of him and Fox News host Tucker Carlson over Jan. 6, along with Pence's praise of the media that Trump constantly calls "fake news."

I'm a witness. Pence delivered his remarks at the 138th annual Gridiron Club and Foundation dinner, an ancient, nontelevised dinner in which journalists and political figures in speeches and songs make fun of each other.

Trump also addressed the gathering in one of his presidential years, but never returned, despite our repeated invitations. I was club president in 2015 and somehow still have been allowed to offer my own attempts to sing and dance.

Be happy and perhaps relieved that my performance was not televised. The program is off the record, although the speeches are not.

Tradition calls for three speakers, who this year were Secretary of State Antony Blinken for the White House, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy for the Democrats and Pence for the GOP.

Pence was appropriately funny for most of his short speech. "I read that some of those classified documents they found at Mar-a-Lago were actually stuck in the president's Bible," Pence quipped, "which proves he had absolutely no idea they were there."

But he also was passionately blunt about the predicament in which Trump had put him — and the nation — on Jan.6.

Pence said Trump was "wrong" in claiming that the vice president had the authority to overturn the election results. "I had no right to overturn the election," Pence said.

Pence also slammed efforts by some to rewrite that day as a "peaceful tourist visit," noting that "tourists don't injure 140 police officers by sightseeing." Pence appeared to be referring to Carlson and others who have tried to pretend that ample footage of graphic violence on Jan. 6 doesn't exist.

Trump's "reckless words endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol that day," Pence said. "I know that history will hold Donald Trump accountable."

Yet, I must ask, how can history or anyone else properly hold the former president accountable if Pence won't share details of his interactions with Trump leading up to the 2020 election and the day of the attack on the Capitol?

Why did Pence recently file a motion to block a federal grand jury subpoena seeking his testimony in the investigation of that attack.

And why, for that matter, has he stonewalled efforts to provide the American people — and the Department of Justice investigating Jan. 6 — a full accounting of all the events surrounding that day?

"The American people have a right to know what took place at the Capitol on Jan. 6," Pence said.

That's right, sir. I wish you would do more to help us find out.

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Twitter @cptime

How the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank affects Chicago

By Emily Tsitrian

For Chicagoans, business activity in California's Silicon Valley can seem like a world away — both in miles and in impact. As such, we might be wondering, should last week's collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank worry us here in the Windy City? After all, as the name suggests, isn't this bank's failure some regional and industry-specific issue?

Sadly, SVB's rapid implosion over the past several days could have some concerning implications for Chicago's burgeoning startup, venture capital and tech ecosystem that should worry all of us who are rooting for Chicago to become a hub of such activities.

SVB, in addition to being the 16th-largest bank in the United States, was the default banking partner in the startup and technology ecosystem. It was unique in that its team had a deep understanding of how capital investments and business banking work in the startup economy.

For example, unlike typically small to medium businesses, most technology startups are Delaware-C corporations. They raise money from angel investors and venture capitalists and compensate their workers with a combination of salary plus equity. Because of the unique nature of these companies, they tend to attract founders, employees and investors who see opportunities to take big risks for the potential to upend how an entire industry works.

The nature of the beast: Many of these companies go to zero, many continue operating as midmarket firms for decades and a small few become "unicorns" — Silicon Valley's term for the startups that explode and fundamentally change how the world works. Early employees and founders then typically become startup investors and advisers themselves and will probably continue to prefer banking partners that fundamentally "get" how this ecosystem and its unique cash movement patterns work.

svb
Main Lobby

A security guard looks out a door as customers line up at Silicon Valley Bank headquarters in Santa Clara, California, on Monday. **NOAH BERGER/GETTY-AFP**

SVB was a bank uniquely positioned to facilitate such a pocket of the economy and, as such, became the default banking partner of many startups and their employees, founders and investors. It's easy to imagine how, in such a fast-paced corner of the economy, a banking institution that is familiar with these financing norms would work well. In fact, SVB was the banking partner for nearly half of U.S. venture-backed technology and health care companies that listed on stock markets last year. When the bank collapsed in a matter of 48 hours, it sent tidal waves of panic through thousands of companies that banked there, as well as their employees.

Much has been written about how this happened in the first place. On the outset, it appears to be an idiosyncratic event tied to SVB's overexposure on interest rate risk, too much depositor concentration by a population made cash-rich by monetary policy and a good old-fashioned run on the bank.

It's hard not to have liquidity issues when experiencing a whopping $42 billion in withdrawals in one day, aggravated by panicked venture capitalists and startup founders on Twitter who can apparently spread fear faster than the financial supply chain can wire funds.

On Friday alone, many startup companies did not make payroll and began putting contingency plans to lay off or furlough employees, given the uncertainty of accessing their operating funds. Nonprofits with grants tied up in SVB accounts are facing an uncertain future.

Northern California wine country, which frequently banks with SVB, faced a potential cash flow crisis. Fintech companies with financial products such as Automated Clearing House payouts, which built onto SVB's banking rails, screeched to a halt. Several publicly traded companies like Roblox and Roku filed required paperwork with the Securities and Exchange Commission about their cash exposure to SVB.

Thankfully, on Sunday, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Treasury Department announced a backstop plan to make depositors whole, while continuing to sort out the details of an asset sale. This was a huge sigh of relief in terms of business continuity, but we are not out of the woods, as uncertainty looms with regards to the cash positions of other regional banks that may have large unrealized losses similar to SVB's and whose equity holders will probably not be bailed out, as the Fed and President Joe Biden made very clear in a statement Monday morning.

Regardless of the wobbliness of the banking sector at large, for Chicago, the loss of SVB — a critical banking partner that greases the infrastructure to help enable this sector to innovate — is unfortunate. And for a city that prides itself on being a center of financial innovation, with a history as the capital of the derivatives industry, we should be thoughtful and bold as we consider what response is the right one.

We won't know for a few weeks or months how deep the ripple effects will be felt or whether the crisis has been fully contained by the Fed's swift weekend action, but one thing is clear: The sudden loss of SVB was a tough moment for startup companies and regional banks everywhere, and those who root for them.

Chicagoans can and should rally together to support our startup founders and regional banking infrastructure through this crisis and come together to rebuild the underlying technology and financial ecosystem so critical to their success.

Emily Tsitrian lives in Chicago with her husband and dog. She has worked for several tech companies and is the author of "Make Me the Boss: Surviving as A Millennial Manager in the Corporate World."

Drone

from Page 1

The incident, which added to Russia-U.S. tensions over Moscow's war in Ukraine, appeared to mark the first time since the height of the Cold War that a U.S. aircraft was brought down after an encounter with a Russian warplane.

President Joe Biden was briefed on the incident by national security adviser Jake Sullivan, according to White House National Security spokesman John Kirby. He added that State Department officials would be speaking directly with their Russian counterparts and "expressing our concerns over this unsafe and unprofessional intercept."

State Department spokesman Ned Price called it a "brazen violation of international law." He said the U.S. summoned the Russian ambassador to lodge a protest and the U.S. ambassador to Russia, Lynne Tracy, has made similar representations in Moscow.

The U.S. European Command said in a statement that two Russian Su-27 fighter jets "conducted an unsafe and unprofessional intercept" of a U.S. MQ-9 drone that was operating within international airspace over the Black Sea.

It said one of the Russian fighters "struck the propeller of the MQ-9, causing U.S. forces to have to bring the MQ-9 down in international waters." Prior to that, the Su-27s dumped fuel on and flew in front of the MQ-9 several times before the collision in "a reckless, environmentally unsound and unprofessional manner," the U.S. European Command said in a statement from Stuttgart, Germany.

"This incident demonstrates a lack of competence in addition to being unsafe and unprofessional," it added.

Air Force Gen. James Hecker, commander of U.S. Air Forces Europe and Air Forces Africa, said the MQ-9 aircraft was "conducting routine operations in international airspace when it was intercepted and hit by a Russian aircraft, resulting in a crash and complete loss of the MQ-9." He added that "in fact, this unsafe and unprofessional act by the Russians nearly caused both aircraft to crash."

Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said the incident occurred at 7:03 a.m. Central European time over international waters, and well clear of Ukraine, after the Russian jets had flown in the vicinity of the drone for 30 to 40 minutes. There did not appear to be any communications between the aircraft before the collision, Ryder added.

The MQ-9 is capable of carrying munitions but Ryder would not say whether it was armed. The U.S. had not recovered the crashed drone, U.S. Air Forces-Europe said in a statement, and neither had Russia, Ryder said.

He said it appeared the Russian aircraft also was damaged in the collision but the U.S. has confirmed that warplane did land, although Ryder would not say where.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the U.S. drone was flying over the Black Sea near Crimea and intruded in the area that was declared off limits by Russia as part of what it calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine, causing the military to scramble fighters to intercept it.

"As a result of sharp maneuver, the MQ-9 drone went into uncontrollable flight with a loss of altitude and crashed into water," it said. "The Russian fighters didn't use their weapons or impact the unmanned aerial vehicle, and they safely returned to their base."

Moscow has repeatedly voiced concern about U.S. intelligence flights close to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014. The Kremlin has charged that by providing weapons to Ukraine and sharing intelligence information with Kyiv, the U.S. and its allies are effectively engaged in the conflict.

Kirby emphasized that the incident wouldn't deter the U.S. from continuing their missions in the area.

"If the message is that they want to deter or dissuade us from flying, and operating in international airspace, over the Black Sea, then that message will fail," Kirby said. "We're going to continue to fly and operate in international airspace over international waters. The Black Sea belongs to no one nation."

The U.S. European Command said the incident followed a pattern of dangerous actions by Russian pilots while interacting with U.S. and Allied aircraft over international airspace, including over the Black Sea.

Amid continued fighting in Ukraine, a Russian missile struck an apartment building Tuesday in the eastern city of Kramatorsk, killing at least one person and wounding nine others in one of the major urban strongholds the Donetsk region.

The victims were among seven civilians killed and 30 wounded in 24 hours, Ukrainian authorities said.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 15 ...

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1493 Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1603 French explorer Samuel de Champlain sailed for the new world.

In 1767 the seventh U.S. president, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, S.C.

In 1875 the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, John McCloskey, was named the first American cardinal, by Pope Pius IX.

In 1913 President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

In 1919 the American Legion was founded in Paris.

In 1945 "Going My Way" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1944, and its star, Bing Crosby, was named best actor; Ingrid Bergman was named best actress for "Gaslight."

In 1956 the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady," starring Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins and Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, opened on Broadway.

In 1965, addressing a joint session of Congress, President Lyndon Johnson called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote.

In 1979 Pope John Paul II issued his first encyclical, saying the arms race, uncontrolled technological advances and materialism threatened mankind with self-destruction.

In 1984 a jury in Miami acquitted Officer Luis Alvarez of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Nevell Johnson Jr., a black man whose 1982 death triggered three days of riots.

In 1988 Illinois Sen. Paul Simon defeated Jesse Jackson in the Illinois Democratic presidential primary.

In 1994 Illinois Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, defeated four Democratic primary challengers in his bid for re-election.

In 1995 President Bill Clinton issued an executive order blocking a $1 billion contract between Conoco and Iran to develop a huge offshore oil tract in the Persian Gulf.

In 1996 the Liggett Group agreed to repay more than $10 million in Medicaid bills for treatment of smokers, settling lawsuits with five states. (The settlement came two days after Liggett, the nation's fifth-largest tobacco company, made history by settling a private class-action lawsuit alleging cigarette makers manipulated nicotine to hook smokers.)

In 1998 Dr. Benjamin Spock, whose child care guidance spanned half a century, died in San Diego; he was 94.

In 1999 an Amtrak train slammed into a steel-filled truck at a crossing in Bourbonnais, Ill., killing 11 people. Also in 1999 Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Billy Joel and Dusty Springfield were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

In 2001 federal authorities confirmed that remains found on a Texas ranch were those of missing atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair and two of her relatives. (David Waters, the key suspect in the slayings, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on a federal extortion charge in connection with the case.) Also in 2001 actress Ann Sothern died in Ketchum, Idaho; she was 92.

In 2002 Jerry Tarkanian, the fourth-winningest coach in major college basketball, retired. Also in 2002 television pioneer Sylvester "Pat" Weaver, who created NBC's "Today" and "Tonight" shows, died in Santa Barbara, Calif.; he was 93.

In 2003 Hu Jintao was chosen to replace Jiang Zemin as the president of China.

In 2004, 10 days after being convicted in a stock scandal, Martha Stewart resigned from the board of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

In 2005 former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.)

In 2006 Saddam Hussein, testifying for the first time in his trial, called on Iraqis to stop killing each other and instead fight U.S. troops; the judge reprimanded him for making a rambling, political speech and ordered the TV cameras switched off.

In 2008 a construction crane toppled in New York City, killing seven people. Also in 2008 China's legislature reappointed Hu Jintao as president.

In 2012 Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich reported to Federal Correctional Institution-Englewood in Colorado to begin serving a 14-year prison sentence on corruption charges.

In 2013 the Pentagon announced it was upgrading the country's anti-missile system in Alaska in the wake of nuclear threats made by North Korea.

In 2016 Republican front-runner Donald Trump scored an easy victory in Illinois' presidential primary as he also picked up wins in North Carolina and Florida, causing that state's Sen. Marco Rubio to suspend his campaign; Hillary Clinton edged past Bernie Sanders by fewer than 35,000 votes to win her home state.

In 2016, fueled by competitive contests for president and down-the-ballot races, more than 3.3 million ballots were cast in the Illinois primary, eclipsing the recent high-water mark of more than 2.9 million in 2008. Also in 2016 the head of Bangladesh's central bank resigned after it was discovered that about a month earlier hackers had diverted $81 million from the country's account with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Lottery numbers

For yesterday's numbers and recent drawings, go to chicagotribune.com/lottery or use your mobile device to scan the code above.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Cemeteries/Crematories/Mausoleum

Chapel Hill Gardens
2 lots in Chapel Hill Gardens, Oak Lawn. priced at 2500 dcraske@craske.com or 618-697-8351

Death Notices

Bova, August P.
Beloved husband of Jean Bova (nee Santillo). Loving father of August N. (Nancy), and Gene V. (Bertha). Proud grandfather of Amanda, Brittany, Adriana Jimenez, Melissa (Eric) White, and Rob Jimenez. Cherished great-grandfather of Brendan, Alex, Mia, Brianna, Asa, Abagail and Kayden. Caring uncle of many nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday 3-9 p.m. Funeral Friday 9:00 a.m. from the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL to St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Mass 10:00 a.m. Interment private. Please leave a memory for the family on August's Tribute Wall; your stories will bring comfort to family. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J. Sheehy & Sons

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Dhein, Joanne M.

Joanne M. Dhein, 90, formerly of Mount Prospect, passed away March 13, 2023. Beloved wife of the late Donald T. Dhein, M.D. Loving mother of the late Donna Dhein, Trish Dhein, Susan (Cliff, DDS) Hartmann, Donald (Marta) Dhein, Jill (Robert) Pellican, Molly Dhein Hirt, Joanne (Jeff) England. Cherished grandmother of Megan Rowe, Timothy Rowe, M.D., Beth Rowe, Michael Gilbert, Laura (Daniel) Burger, George (Myrica) Bregar, Matthew Bregar, Lauren (Ben) Wilson, Genevieve (Andrew) Colom, Eric Dhein, Emily (Charles) Massingill, Robert (Kimber) Pellican, Jim Pellican, Kevin Hirt, Erin Hirt, Andrew England, Alex England, and Amy England. Great grandmother of Eliot, Robby, George, Joe, Tucker, and Aurora.
Visitation Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at **Friedrichs Funeral Home**, 320 W. Central Rd. at Northwest Highway, Mount Prospect. Visitation Friday, 9:30 a.m. until Funeral Mass 10:30 a.m. at St. Raymond de Penafort Church, Elmhurst Rd. (Rt. 83) at Lincoln St. Mount Prospect. Interment All Saints Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674.
Funeral information call 847-255-7800 or go to www.friedrichsfh.com

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Donaghy, Charles 'Charlie'

Charles "Charlie" Donaghy, 83, passed peacefully March 11, 2023 in his long-time adopted hometown of Park Ridge, Illinois. A proud native of the Bronx, New York City, he is survived by his wife of fifty years Bettina Donaghy nee Colletti, daughter Theresa Donaghy (Ian Kelly), son Michael (Kathryn) Donaghy, granddaughters Eleanor and Amelia Donaghy, and countless nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.
Despite leaving high school in order to support his younger siblings, Charlie ultimately received his Master's degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. From working on the Brooklyn waterfront, to programming the world's first supercomputers, to being recognized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for professional excellence, Charlie achieved numerous career successes. Upon retirement he volunteered for sixteen years with Seasons Hospice, comforting hundreds of strangers at all hours in their time of greatest need. Charlie had two children, but he was a father to many. His constancy, deep integrity, and unfailingly joyful nature brought healing and humor to all who met him. Easy generosity and a love of learning, punctuated by a beaming smile and boisterous laughter, marked his every day. He will be missed by the scores of people whose lives he touched.
A celebration of life will be announced shortly. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry.

RYAN-PARKE FUNERAL HOME Since 1936

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Honor a Loved One with a Death Notice in Chicago Tribune

It's a final farewell; a sign of love and respect; an homage to a loved one's life. Placing a Death Notice shows you care, and is now more efficient than ever before with our **NEW Self-Service** tool.

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Includes print listing in the **Death Notice section of the Chicago Tribune,** an online notice with guestbook on chicagotribune.com.

Chicago Tribune

Visit: chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Fara, Ronald J.
Age 87, of Palos Heights, Illinois passed away March 4, 2023, peacefully in his home surrounded by his loved ones after a long lingering illness. Ron was born April 26, 1935 to the late Joseph and Anna (Trop) Fara in the back of his parents tavern in the Back of the Yards area of Chicago. Ron graduated in the Class of 1953 from Gage Park High School and then attended Hillsdale College where he studied business. Ron then served in the US Navy from 1955-1957. Loving and devoted husband of Suzanne (Drazy) Fara whom he married on September 3, 1989, in Tarpan Springs, Florida. Beloved father of JoEllyn (Terry) McGinty, Ronald G. Fara, and Julianne (Pat) Temple, and the stepfather to Kimberly (Kevin) Schmidt. Cherished grandfather to Travis Temple, Walter Kaleta, Kelly (Matthew) Huhtelin, Cara and Jacob Kaleta. Adored great grandfather to Blake and Bryan Huhtelin, Aria and Noah Kaleta, and Avery Cain. Ron was preceded in death by his brother Robert Fara and his sister Mariann (Fara) Konieczka. Ron was the founder and owner of Ronald J. Fara Insurance Agency. He was an avid fly fisherman, golfer, and a charter member of Prestwick Country Club in Frankfort. Visitation is Saturday, March 18th from 9am until time of prayers, 11am at the **KERRY FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CARE CENTER**, 7020 W. 127th Street, Palos Heights. Proceeding to St. Alexander Church, Mass 11:30 am. In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to donate to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org). www.kerryfh.com ~ (708) 361.4235 ~ www.facebook.com/kerryfuneral

KERRY FUNERAL HOME

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Flink, Ronald J.

Ronald J. Flink, 80, U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran, of Naperville at rest March 11, 2023. Beloved husband of Sandra, nee Ehlers. Loving father of Matthew (Erin) Flink and Jennifer (Chuck) Schneider. Cherished grandfather of Hannah and John Flink, Joshua (Amber) Schneider, and Jessica Schneider. Dear brother of Roger (Marian), Dan (Beverly), Doug (Margie), and Sue (Dennis) Zumwalt. Several loving nieces and nephews. Visitation Thursday March 16 from 4 PM to 7 PM at **Blake - Lamb Funeral Home** 5015 Lincoln Ave., Lisle. Family and friends to meet Friday March 17 for 10:30 AM Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church 2220 Lisson Rd., Naperville. Interment to follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL at 1 PM. Info. (630) 964-9392.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Fogarty, John P.
John Patrick Fogarty, 82, died peacefully at Good Samaritan Hospital on March 8, 2023, with his daughters (his "girls") and long-time partner Sue Schuham by his side. John was born on March 2, 1941, in Chicago to Irish immigrants, Michael and Nellie Fogarty. John was proud of his service to his country as a sergeant in the army, living abroad for 2 years. His love of being on the open road brought him to the profession of truck driving where he reluctantly retired after a quadruple bypass in 2014. He had lots of practice carting his girls back and forth to universities in Wisconsin and Michigan. John loved the outdoors-4 walls couldn't contain him! His happy place was "up North" in Spooner, Wisconsin, where he went every summer with his mother since he was a young boy. He shared this love of the outdoors with his girls: camping, canoeing (on the Kickapoo River), fishing, go-karting, apple picking, and picking wild blueberries for THE best homemade blueberry pancakes. He was a loyal Chicago Bears and Chicago White Sox fan til the end (which was not always good for his blood pressure). He could strike up a conversation anywhere and was a friend to all he met, often bringing home strays to share at the Thanksgiving table. He wore his Irish heritage with pride and could still be found listening to Irish rebel songs. Sue and John would have celebrated 43 years together in April. John adored and was a proud father to Colleen Fogarty (Wietse) van der Schaaf and Jennifer Fogarty (with ex-spouse Barbara (nee Spooner)). He was a loving grandfather to Hugo and Sophie, brother to Eileen Powers and the late Kathleen Fleming, Mary Ann Barron, and Michael Jr., and uncle to many nieces and nephews. Per John's wishes, no funeral services will be held. A celebration of life will take place in the summer.

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Glasener, Loretta "Lola" T.
(Nee Ziomek) formerly of Glenview, IL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 11th at the age of 91, just shy of her 92nd birthday.

Gathering at St. Sebastian Parish, 5400 West Washington Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53208, on Saturday, March 18, 2023 130PM-3PM. Mass of Christian Burial at 3PM. In lieu of flowers and in memory of Loretta, donations to Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer, Chicago Botanic Gardens or The Milwaukee Diaper Mission are appreciated. Please see Becker Ritter Funeral Home website for full notice www.beckerritter.com.

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Gottermeyer, Sarah J.
Sarah J. Gottermeyer, age 85, of LaGrange; beloved wife of the late John W. Gottermeyer; loving mother of Bruce (Joann) Gottermeyer & Jeanne (Michael) Sheehan; proud grandmother of Alecia Gottermeyer, Jacob Sheehan, & Emily Sheehan; dear sister of Elizabeth (the late Benjy) Kuehling; aunt and friend of many. Visitation 10 a.m. until Noon on Friday, March 17 at **Hallowell & James Funeral Home**, 1025 W. 55th St., Countryside. Interment Bronswood Cemetery, Oak Brook. A Memorial Service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 1 at 1st Congregational Church of LaGrange, 100 6th Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Sarah's name to First Congregational Church of LaGrange Friends of Music (https://www.fcclg.org/) are greatly appreciated. Funeral information: (708) 352-6500 or hjfunerals.com

Hallowell & James Funeral Home

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Henneman, Betty W.
Betty W. Henneman, 91, passed peacefully on March 9, 2023. Daughter of the late Martin C. and Edith Bush Wellner. Wife of the late Dr. Raymond F. Henneman. Mother to five children, grandmother to 13 and one great-granddaughter. Betty served as Park Ridge City Clerk for 36 years. She served on many service and community organizations and active member of Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church. Visitation Thursday March 16, 3-8 p.m. at **Ryan-Parke Funeral Home**, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge. Funeral Friday, 9:15 a.m. from funeral home to Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church. Mass 10 a.m. Interment All Saints Cemetery. For full obituary information please visit, www.ryan-parke.com.

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Hickey, Laurence Michael

Laurence Michael Hickey of Orland Park, IL and Naples, FL passed away surrounded by loved ones on March 5, 2023. He was born September 5, 1942 in Chicago, IL and he was the oldest of three children of Michael and Monica "Mona" (nee Fahey). Larry is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Judith; loving father of Bride Burke (Don) and Colleen DeVos (Ray); loving stepchildren Frank Dunkel (Janet),Bob Dunkel (Sandy), and Marie Dunkel; proud grandfather of Victoria, Kristina, Rebecca, Bob Jr and Jackie; fond brother of Michael (Kathleen) and sister, Catherine "Cos"; and fond uncle and cousin to many. Visitation Sunday, March 19, 2023, 3-9 p.m. at the **Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home**, 9000 W. 151st Street, Orland Park, IL. Family and friends to gather Monday, March 20, 2023 10:00 a.m. until time of Mass 11:00 a.m. at Church of the Holy Family, 1080 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, IL. Interment private for family. Please leave a memory for the family on Laurence's Tribute Wall; your stories will bring comfort to his family. www.sheehyfh.com 708-857-7878

Robert J.
Sheehy & Sons

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Huddleston, Sr., Harry F.

Harry F. Huddleston, Sr., 98 years, U.S. Navy WWII Veteran of Port Charlotte, FL and formerly of Orland Park, IL passed away on Wed Mar 8, 2023. Never one to linger he passed quickly and on his terms. He lived a life full of adventure, travel, reading, dancing, card playing, joke telling, and storytelling. He enjoyed submitting Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes and trying exotic foods. A day was never complete until he had finished every puzzle in the daily newspaper. To know Harry was to love Harry and be loved by Harry. His life's mission was to live a life of service to all. Alongside his best friends, he helped save a drowning man in Lake Michigan and went on to serve in WWII in the Navy. At home, he served his community politically being on the Chamber of Commerce, election judge, running for local office, and maintaining leadership roles on the board of his HOA throughout his entire life. As a proud WWII veteran, Harry was honored to be part of the VFW and spent over 50 years as a Mason. He loved God and passed that love on to the next generation as a Sunday School teacher. With a little help and a lot of love from family and friends, he lived in his own home until his final days and still had his license until his 98th birthday. He played hard but loved harder. Beloved husband for 55 years to the late Barbara Jean Huddleston, nee Myers (2007). Amazing father of Kit (David) Jones, Cindy (Barb Kragness) Huddleston and the late Harry Huddleston, Jr. (2007). Grandfather of Deborah, Christi, Cherish, Kyle, Christopher, David, Deidra, Michael, Eric, and Kimberly. Great-grandfather of Lisa, Jackie, Joshua, and Ellie. Great-Great-grandfather of Finley and Hazel. Brother of Maxine, Jimmy, Marillia, and Lucille. Uncle, friend, and neighbor to countless more. Visitation Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 2-8 p.m. at Colonial Chapel, 15525 S. 73rd Ave. (155th/Wheeler Dr. & Harlem) Orland Park, IL. Lying in State Monday, March 20, 2023 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 13350 S. LaGrange Rd., Orland Park, IL from 10:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Service 11:30 a.m. A live-stream of the service will be available. Please visit Harry's obituary on Colonial Chapel's website at colonialchapel.com to view the live-stream of the service. The link will be posted shortly. Interment will be Wednesday Mar 22nd 2023 at 11:00 am at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. A memorial will be held at a later date in Florida for Harry's Port Charlotte family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Harry Huddleston, Sr. may be made to the National World War II Museum via the website at https://www.nationalww2museum.org/give/honor-your-hero/tribute-gifts-national-wwii-museum, by calling 504-528-1944 x329, or by mailing a check to the National WWII Museum, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. Express your thoughts and condolences at colonialchapel.com 708-532-5400

COLONIAL CHAPEL
FAMILY OWNED FUNERAL HOME
PRIVATE ON-SITE CREMATORY

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Kantowski, Jeanette c.

Jeanette C. Kantowski nee Olszewski. Beloved wife of Raymond Kantowski. Loving mother of Ted Kantowski, Sandra Greiner, & Valerie (Gene) Krukowski. Cherished grandmother of Nicholas, Jenna, & Victoria. Funeral Friday 9:15 am from **Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home**, 5570 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn to St. Gerald Church for Mass at 10:00 am. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation Thursday from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com 708-425-0500

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Kissel, Robert A. 'Bob'

Robert A. 'Captain Bob' Kissel, age 73, United States Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran and Retired Cook County Sheriff Police Officer, beloved husband of Olga (nee Urbans); loving father of Carrie (Mike) Gagen, Tricia (Bill) Rivera, Tina Kissel and David Cline; cherished grandfather of Ian, Sean, Ryan, Leah, Emma, Ayden and Austin; dear brother of Rita Annela, Loretta Ozga and Janice Burton; fond uncle and friend to many. Visitation Friday 2-8 P.M. at **Lawn Funeral Home**, 7732 W. 159th St. Orland Park, IL 60462. Funeral Service 6:30 P.M. Interment Private. Funeral info 708-429-3200.

Lawn
Funeral Home

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Klimas, Judith A.

Judith A. Klimas beloved wife of the late Frank W.; loving mother of Frank J. (Kelley);dearest grandmother of Zoe and Jenna; dear sister of the late Elizabeth (Edward) Campbell and Joseph Marrocco; also many fond nieces and nephews. Judith was a very caring and dedicated nurse for 40 years. Visitation Thursday 3 PM-9 PM at the **Schielka Addison Street Funeral Home** 7710 W. Addison St.. Funeral Friday 10 AM from the funeral home to St Francis Borgia Church for a 10:30 AM mass. Interment St Adalbert Cemetery. 773-625-3444

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Kranz, Eileen

Eileen Kranz, 89, formerly of Northbrook, IL, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2023, in Libertyville, IL. She is preceded in death by her husband Andrew R. Kranz. She is survived by her children Karl (Traci) Kranz and John Kranz; grandchildren, Madison and Jack; and sister, Barbara Maxwell. Visitation & Service will take place on Friday, March 17th at **Gurnee Salata Funeral Home**, Gurnee, IL. Visitation begins at 4 pm, Service at 5:30 pm. Entombment will take place privately.

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Lott, Kenneth

Kenneth Robert Lott, 81, of Visalia, CA passed away peacefully on March 12th, with family by his side. Born to the late Joel & Louise Lott, on September 28th, 1941, in Taft, CA, Ken grew up in the San Joaquin Valley of California. He graduated from Corcoran High School in 1959, where the friends he made remained close and dear throughout his life. Route 66 and business opportunities brought Ken to Chicago in 1966 where, shortly after arriving, he co-founded Lott & Monehen Marketing which he built into a powerhouse manufacturer's representative operation that thrives to this day. Ken rooted and raised his family in Oak Brook, IL, where he actively contributed his talents coaching and cheering at countless kids' sports activities and serving as a trustee on the Oak Brook Park District Board.

The loving father of Bob (Anne Robinson) Lott, Steve (Ruth) Lott, Betsy (Keith Chval) Roca, and Jason (Lorri) Lott, Ken also took great pride and joy as "papa" to his grandchildren: Evan Lott, Joel & Tallulah Lott, Riley, Kate, and Alex Roca, and Luke Lott. He is also survived by his brothers Jerry Lott and Rodney Lott. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his former wife and lifelong friend, Anne Lott.

Always active, there wasn't a sport that Ken did not enjoy competing in, mastering all that he tried. Ken was a stand-out high school athlete, competing in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Never losing his competitive spirit, his adult years were filled with adventures as well: downhill skiing, marathons, cycling, and competing in masters track meets, throwing the javelin well into his 70's.

In later years, Route 66 would lead him back to his cherished Morro Bay, CA, where he ultimately retired. He filled his days with golf, long distance motorcycle rides, and travel and adventures with his longtime companion, Nancy Oliveira.

Ken was the guy you'd turn to if you were in a jam. You could count on him for a pep talk, sage advice, and sometimes a swift kick if needed. He will be dearly missed and fondly remembered for the boyish twinkle in his eye, and the laughter and love he brought to his friends and family.

A memorial will be held in late spring. Charitable donations in memory of Ken may be made to Misericordia (www.misericordia.com). Please use family reference # 6275A.

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Maringer, Frederick A.

Frederick A. Maringer, age 85; beloved husband of the late Lorraine M.; loving father of Lorraine (Joe) Cislak, Carol (Randy) Mucha and Fred Jr. (Jennifer) Maringer; dear grandpa of Kevin, Patrick and Michael Cislak, Mikey Mucha, Rick and Mathew Maringer; dear brother of the late Frank (the late Dolores) Maringer and the late Anne (the late Sylvester) Wisniewski; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Funeral Friday 9:15 am from **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Ave., Darien to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Mass 10:00 am. Interment Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. Visitation Thursday 3-8 pm. For funeral information: 630-852-3595 or www.modelldarien.com.

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Michicich, Lucian M.

Lucian M. Michicich. U.S. Army. Beloved husband of the late Cruz nee Lizarraga-Perez. Loving father of Gary (Laura) Michicich, Lisa Michicich, Brian (Dawn) Michicich & Kevin (Deborah) Michicich. Cherished grandfather of Megan, Caitrin, Michael, Noelle, Camaron, Devin, Damen, Samson & Anna. Proud great grandfather of Emmanuel. Dear brother of Vera (Frank) Colao, the late Marino (Jackie) Michicich, Paul Julius, Barbara, Anthony (Sandra) & Mario Michicich. Funeral Friday 8:30 am from **Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home**, 5570 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn to St. Symphorosa Church, 6135 S. Austin in Chicago, for Mass at 9:30 am. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Visitation Thursday from 3:30 pm until 8:00 pm. thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com 708-425-0500

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Paparelli, Frank

Frank Paparelli, U.S. Army Veteran, of Hickory Hills; Beloved husband for 58 years of Arleen, nee Hlinsky; Loving brother of the late Anthony (the late Louise) Paparelli and the late Vincent (Patricia) Paparelli; Dearest son of the late Vincenzo and Isabel Paparelli, nee Parrulli; Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Frank was a former manager of Walgreens. Visitation Friday, March 17, 2023 from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Lack & Sons Funeral Home, 9236 S. Roberts Road, Hickory Hills. Funeral Service Saturday, March 18, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment private. information 708-430-5700.

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Scudellari, Marina

Marina Scudellari, nee Palisi, 93, of Highland Park, IL passed away on March 9th. Beloved wife to Anthony E (d. 1989); mother to Anthony D (Doug Dawson), Peter (Yimin Feng), Francis & Lisa (Chris) Jungheim; sister to Christine (V John) Blazina; grandmother to Nicholas Jungheim, Joseph Scudellari & Matthew Jungheim; aunt to Jennifer Blazina (Arne Joensson) & David Blazina (Maja Ramos). A private family service will be held; interment at St. Mary's Cemetery, Lake Forest, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Tanglewood Institute at Boston University's College of Fine Arts: www.bu.edu/cfa For information, please call **Kelley & Spalding Funeral Home** at (847) 831-4260 or www.kelleyspaldingfuneralhome.com.

KELLEY & SPALDING
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

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Suerth, Raymond H 'Ray'

Raymond (Ray) Suerth was born on June 9, 1932 and passed away on Tuesday March 7, 2023. Ray was the son of William and Andre' Suerth, brother to Richard and the late Robert. Ray was married to his loving wife Margaret for 63 years before she proceeded him in 2022. Ray was a devoted father to Bill(Beth), John(Robyn), Judy and Ray(Agnes). Ray was a proud Grandfather to Melissa(Tim), Katie, Colleen, Matt(Kate), Jill(James), Becca(Mike), Kelly, Brandon, Emmet, Olivia, Ethan, Molly and Great Grandfather to Juliana, Miranda, Hunter, TJ, Owen, Savannah, Ashton, Charlotte, Jack and Landon! Ray served his country in the Army during the Korean War. Upon his return he owned and operated Elm Auto & Radiator Service in Chicago for almost 40 years. Ray retired in 1994 and truly enjoyed his time with family and friends in Illinois and Florida. Visitation will be on Thursday, March 16 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM with a mass immediately following at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 411 N. Wheeling Road, Prospect Heights, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials to your favorite charity are appreciated. For additional info **Barr Funeral Home** 773-743-4034 or sign the guestbook www.barrfuneralhome.com

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Wood, Stephan Durell

Stephan Durell Wood, born July 28, 1968, passed away on March 8th, 2023. Stephan was the son of the late Freeman John Wood Jr. and Roswitha Stephan "Stephie" Wood nee Stephan. He is survived by his mother Stephie, his brother Freeman John (Kimberly) Wood III , his sons Christopher James Wood, Matthew Joshua Wood, and Myles Anderson Wood, and his nieces Hanna Elizabeth Wood, Ellen Louisa Wood, and Georgia Grace Wood. Stephan graduated Culver Military Academy in 1986 and Allegheny College in 1990 where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. After graduation, he started his career with Specialized before transitioning to cyber security sales. He was passionate about lacrosse, the guitar, and biking. He will be greatly missed by all who loved him. Memorial Service Thursday, March 16, 2023 2:00 p.m. at The Episcopal Church of Saint James the Less, 550 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL. Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago,157 West Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60654 or Episcopal Church of Saint James the Less. Info: **donnellanfuneral.com** or (847) 675-1990

Donnellan
• FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICES •

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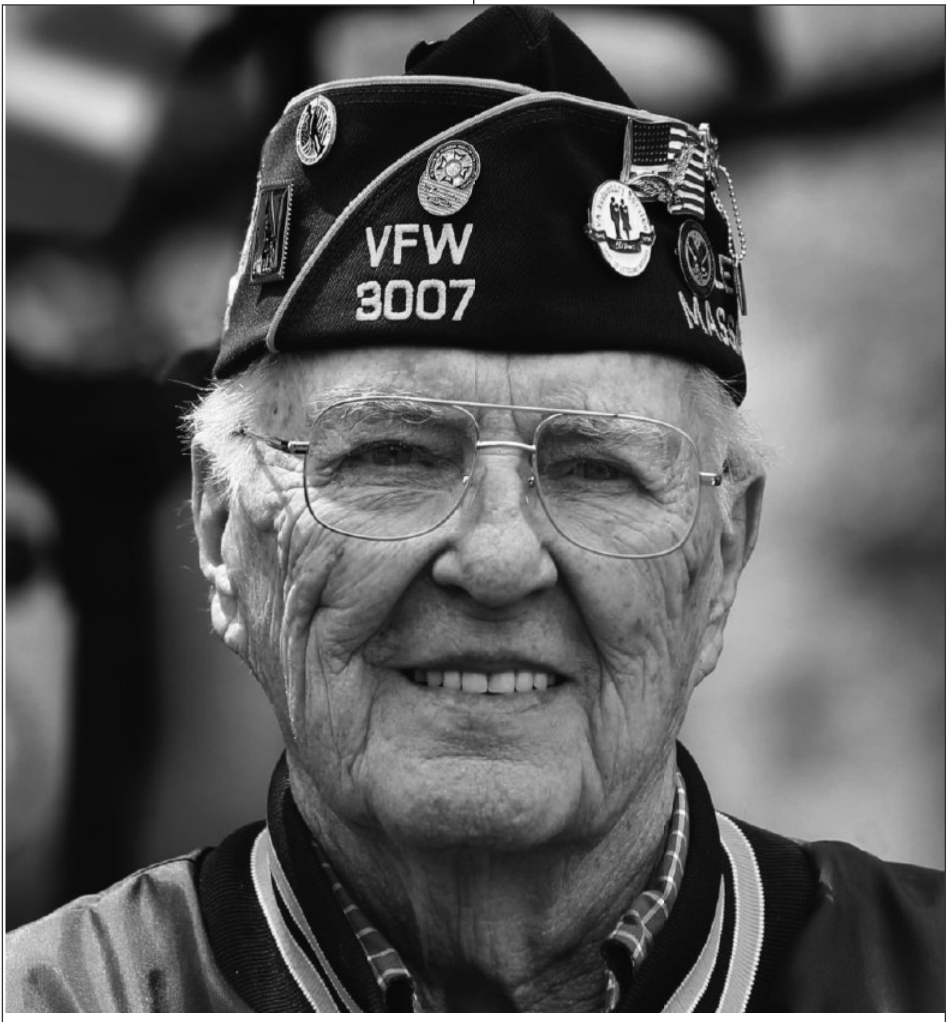

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Regina M. Beard, DNP, RN- CEO of VicTory 4 Kidz Hosts Youth Healthcare and Career Expo March 13th-15th, 2023. With more than 1400 registered students, Dr. Beard and team have raised the bar for the youth. VicTory 4 Kidz continues to provide robust resources for the youth by creating unique pathways for success through career exploration and more!

For more information:
Visit https://www.victory4kidz.net/
219.806.5383

ASSUMED NAMES

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010257** on the D**ate: March 1, 2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **HERSH'S HELPING HAND**
with the business located at:
2052 W POTOMAC AVENUE, UNIT #2
CHICAGO, IL, 60622
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **HAYLEY DANIELLE YUSSMAN AND JEFFREY JORDAN MELLEN**
2052 W POTOMAC AVENUE, UNIT #2
CHICAGO, IL, 60622
3/8, 3/15, & 3/22/23 7391082

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010239** on the D**ate: February 27, 2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **ALICE BUTTERFIELD AND ASSOCIATES**
with the business located at:
20560 BENSLEY AVE
LYNWOOD, IL, 60411
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **ALICE K & WILLIAM H BUTTERFIELD**
20560 BENSLEY AVE
LYNWOOD, IL, 60411
3/15, 3/22, & 3/29/23 7397082

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010225** on the D**ate: 02/23/2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **Good Things Janitorial Service**
with the business located at:
120 Lathrop APT 1
Forest Park, IL, 60130
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Antonio Mauricio Gutierrez**
120 Lathrop Ave APT 1
Forest Park, IL, 60130
3/1, 3/8 & 3/15/2023 7386565

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook C**ounty** Fi**le No. Y23010240** on the D**ate: 2/27/2023**
Under the Assumed Name of: **ZACK ZHENG**
with the business located at:
1955 W MELROSE ST APT 3
CHICAGO, IL, 60657
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **ZHIYNAG ZHENG**
1955 W MELROSE ST APT 3
CHICAGO, IL, 60657

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LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
March 15, 2023
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three (3) business days for creation of your log-in account. A bidder who does not submit a bid for this Specification prior to the Bid due date may be found non-responsive and its Bid rejected. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: **LIQUID HYDROFLUOROSILICIC ACID**
DEPARTMENT: **Water Management**
TYPE: **Commodities**

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS: www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

SPECIFICATION NO: **1226831**
RFQ NO: **8286**
BID/PROPOSAL OPENING DATE:
April 19, 2023
TIME: **11 a.m.**, Central Time

PRE-BID CONFERENCE:
March 22, 2023 at 11 a.m.,
LOCATION: Via TEAMS/Conference Call
All Attendees must pre-register to participate. Interested Attendees must email contact person listed below. Email Subject: "Pre-Bid Conference for (SPEC# 1226831: LIQUID HYDROFLUOROSILICIC ACID) Confirmation and instructions will be emailed to registered attendees.

CONTACT: Lolita Hendrix OR Elsie Vazquez, Procurement Specialist EMAIL: Lolita.hendrix@cityofchicago.org OR Elsie.vazquez@cityofchicago.org
Pub: 3/15/2023 7396255

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF COOK DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Bids will be received by the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) on the date and time (Central Standard Time) stated for the specific Request for Proposal (RFP) listed below at 175 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, Illinois, 60604:

Project Name: Landscaping Services for Various Properties

Specification Number: 2023-100-015

Proposal Due Date: March 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 P.M.

Contact Person: Deborah O'Donnell
Telephone Number: (312) 542-4725
E-mail Address: dodonnell@thehacc.org

The Solicitation Package, specifications and architectural drawings may be downloaded by registering on our website which lists a complete list of all current bid opportunities with the HACC:

https://ha.internationaleprocurement.com/requests.html?company_id=25898&nocache=8586242

Proposals that are not properly submitted will be considered non-responsive and be disqualified from consideration. Proposals submitted late will not be accepted. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the best interest of the Housing Authority of Cook County.

Richard Monocchio,
Executive Director
03/10,15/2023 7394473

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received for the following by Chicago Transit Authority through Electronic Submission to the Bid Office's E-Procurement Platform no later than 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 to the link below:
https://transitchicago.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities
Req No.: C22CT102801366R3,
Invitation for Bids (IFB) to Furnish and Deliver Eleven (11) Battery Powered, Walk-behind, Compact Floor Scrubbers.
PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
Questions regarding this Bid must be submitted via Bonfire no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Questions will not be accepted after this date and time. For additional information, please contact Courtney Cannon, Sr. Procurement Administrator, ccannon@transitchicago.com.
Any contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
The contractor will be required to furnish certified copies of any and all Insurance Policies required in relation to this contract prior to CTA's execution.
Chicago Transit Authority hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.
PLEASE NOTE: The right is reserved to accept any bid or any part or parts thereof or to reject any and all bids.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain
March 15, 2023
3/15/2023 7398354

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Chief of Police (Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 3, 2023 through March 17, 2023. **Examination Date:** April 13-14, 2023. **Location:** MWRD Main Office Building, 111 East Erie, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Chief of Police practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under direction, supervises the District's police force, directs the implementation of security procedures, and maintains a continuing evaluation of security effectiveness. **Salary:** $122,562.96 per year

Associate Structural Engineer (Original & Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 3, 2023 through March 17, 2023. **Examination Date:** April 15, 2023. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination:** Knowledge of Associate Structural Engineer practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under general supervision, performs ordinary structural engineering work in connection with the design of steel, wood and reinforced concrete structures. May supervise subordinate engineers and sub-professional personnel. **Salary:** $88,148.32 per year

Engineering Technician V (Promotional)

Application Filing Period: March 10, 2023 through March 24, 2023. **Examination Date:** April 22, 2023. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. **Scope of Examination**: Knowledge of Engineering Technician V practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under general supervision, performs sub-professional engineering work in connection with construction, surveys, scheduling reviews, inspection of materials and workmanship on projects at treatment plants, pumping stations and intercepting sewers. **Salary:** $80,312.96 per year

Applications can be submitted online **only** at www.districtjobs.org.

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100.

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An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/D
Pub: 3/3 thru 3/17/2023 7389279

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

DATE ADVERTISED: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR STATES ATTORNEY OFFICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) FOR CHEVROLET SUBURBAN IFB NO.: 2245-10271R2

IFB Document: The IFB document is available for download at: https://legacy.cookcountyil.gov/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php

Contact Person: If you are not able to download the IFB or if you have other questions, please contact Daniel Gizzi, Senior Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-6825 or dan.gizzi@cookcountyil.gov

Questions: Questions can be submitted in writing to the contact person above until 12:00 PM (CST) on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

IFB Bid Due Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:00 AM (CST). All Bids must be submitted electronically and uploaded to: https://cookcountyil.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities following the instructions set forth in the IFB Solicitation document.

Toni Preckwinkle
President,
Cook County
Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer

Late Bids Will Not Be Accepted
3/15/23 7398032

BID NOTICE

The Board of Education of Proviso Township High Schools District 209 is accepting responses to our Request for Proposals (RFP) for an ELA Textbook Adoption (9-12) to adopt the comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for our three high schools. RFP instructions and specifications are enclosed.
Proviso Township High Schools District 209 is a public high school district serving grades 9 to 12. We have three high schools with a total enrollment of approximately 5,000 students.
All proposals must be submitted to Proviso Township High Schools District 209 no later than Thursday, March 24, 2023, by 4:00 p.m.
Proviso Township High Schools District 209
8601 W. Roosevelt Road
Forest Park, IL 60130
Attention: Leonard Moody
3/9 - 3/18/23 7394254

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Isabel Hernandez

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Michelle Hernandez (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **22JA00501**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Unknown (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **July 12, 2022**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Smith** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **June 5, 2023**,at **1:30 PM** in CALENDAR **14** COURTROOM **N**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental **rights**.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397889

LEGAL NOTICE/PUBLIC NOTICE J. STERLING MORTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT # 201 INVITES BIDS FOR : CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES

The Board of Education of J. Sterling Morton High School District # 201 is issuing requests for sealed bids for Custodial Supplies for the 2023-2024 school year. Bid Specifications will be available and may be obtained online at morton201.org or by calling Dennis Forst, 708-780-2126.
All sealed Bids will be due on Tuesday March 28, 2023 10:00 a.m. CST. A public meeting to open the bids will be held shortly thereafter at 5801 W. Cermak Rd, Cicero, Illinois.
The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any part or the entire bid.
March 15, 2023 - 7398146

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
London McIntosh

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Lateria Hawkins (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **17JA00786**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Any & All Unknown (Fathers)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **February 28, 2023**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Diane Pezanoski** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **May 2, 2023**, at **9:00 AM** in CALENDAR **17** COURTROOM **A**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental **rights**.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397874

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Chicago Tribune

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Luis Valladares

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Dannia Urbina (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **23JA00171**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Luis Valladares (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **March 8, 2023**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Kimberly D. Lewis** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **March 22, 2023**,at **9:00 AM** in CALENDAR **8** COURTROOM **H**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental **rights**.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397885

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
LUIS SAUCEDO

A MINOR
NO. **2022JD01538**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **FABIAN SAUCEDO (FATHER)**, respondents, and **TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **October 5, 2022**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX**, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **TERRENCE SHARKEY** in the 1100 South Hamilton, Chicago, Illinois on **April 12, 2023** at **9:00 AM** IN CALENDAR **63** COURTROOM **13** ,

or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, an order or judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF COURT
March 15, 2023

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY:
R. MORROW, N. NASIF
ATTORNEY FOR:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ADDRESS: 1100 SOUTH HAMILTON
CITY/STATE: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60612
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (312) 433-7000
ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,
COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397881

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
MARCELLO J NEAL

A MINOR
NO. **2022JD60030**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, **RUTH AGUAYO (MOTHER) and MARCELLO NEAL (MINOR)** , respondents, and **TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, that on **September 26, 2022** , a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX**, STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK COUNTY through her assistant State's Attorney in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **SANJU OOMMEN GREEN** in the 16501 South Kedzie Parkway, Markham, Illinois on **April 25, 2023** at **9:00 AM** IN CALENDAR **76** COURTROOM **099** ,

or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act. The court has authority in this case to take from you the custody and guardianship of the minor.

Unless you appear at the hearing and show cause to the contrary, an order or judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the petition.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF COURT
March 15, 2023

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY:
J. CASEY, C. SAWICZ.
ATTORNEY FOR:
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
ADDRESS: 16501 SOUTH KEDZIE PARKWAY
CITY/STATE: MARKHAM, ILLINOIS 60428
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (708) 232-4061
ATTORNEY NO.: 33182

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT,
COOK COUNTY OF ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397887

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Nori Johnson

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) OF **Erikka Johnson (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **22JA00634**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Terrance Coles aka Terrence Cole (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **September 1, 2022**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **KIM FOXX** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Demetrios Kottaras** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **April 18, 2023**,at **2:00 P.M.** in CALENDAR **7** COURTROOM **G**, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental **rights**.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order or judgment entered.

Iris Y. Martinez, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 15, 2023 7397872

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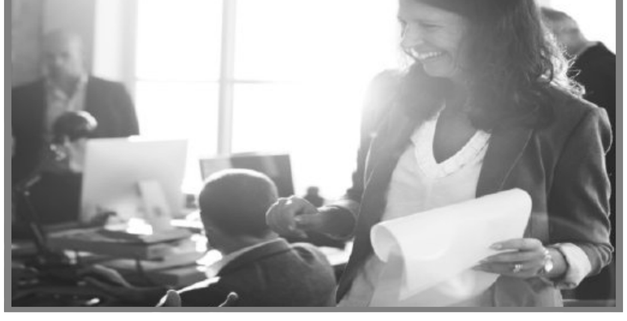

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NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 30-YEAR LEASE ON 12.8± ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 7499 CANAL BANK DRIVE IN SUMMIT, ILLINOIS; MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 35.04

LEASE NUMBER: **23-361-12(Re-bid)**

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: **April 4, 2023**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposals will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Central Standard Time), on April 4, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 12.8± acres of District real estate located at 7499 Canal Bank Drive in Summit, Illinois; Main Channel Parcel 35.04. The property is improved with two concrete warehouses. Each warehouse is a one-story industrial building comprised of 42,354 square feet and 78,502 square feet gross building area, respectively.

A representative of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") will be at the subject real estate to facilitate an optional site visit **Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 10:00-11:00 AM (Central Standard Time).**

Attendees must sign a waiver form. Attendees must also provide their name and business affiliation to the District representative at the start of the site visit by submission of a business card or other writing. **Please note that attending the site visit is not a requirement for bidding.**

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $2,800,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $280,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq; and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be cause for the rejection of any bid. Biding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

If any potential Proposer contemplating to submit a proposal is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the specifications or other contract documents, such inquiry should be submitted online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**. The path is as follows: (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail or any other such form of delivery.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit to be paid to the District via ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfer in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the initial annual rental based on bidder's Proposal. Payment of such bid deposit by check of any kind will not be accepted, and all bid deposits must be received no later than the bid opening time. Any proposal submitted without a timely submitted bid deposit will not be considered and will not be read after it is publicly opened.

To submit a bid deposit, visit **https://mwrd.org/form/submit-bid-deposit**, which will automatically take you to the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page. You can also access that page by visiting the District's website at www.mwrd.org and taking the following path: DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS → click *"Submit Bid Deposit"* link. At the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page, click the drop-down menu for this Contract No. and select this contract, then fill in all required fields. Carefully review your information on this page and each subsequent page (SUBMIT BID DEPOSIT → PAYMENT → CONFIRMATION → RECEIPT) as you will not be allowed to continue to each next page unless all required fields are properly filled in. Upon completion of the process, an email will be sent to your attention acknowledging that payment of your bid deposit has been initiated and that payment, once approved, will be applied to your account. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your spam and junk email folders. Ensure the MWRD emails are not filtered as spam. Any questions concerning making such deposits should be directed to the District's Clerk/Director of Finance, Jacqueline Torres at **312-751-6500** or by email to **torresj@mwrd.org**, or Supervising Accountant Mete Hachim at 312-751-6516 or by email to **hachimm@mwrd.org**.

The required bid deposit will be forfeited in the event the successful bidder fails to execute a lease agreement within 13 days of its tender. All other deposits will be returned to the respective depositors. The form of the lease currently used for this transaction is available for inspection at the District's Law Office and is also attached within the contract documents.

The successful bidder, if other than the initial (or lead) applicant who previously submitted two (2) appraisal reports, will pay to the District the cost for obtaining the initial applicant's 2 appraisal reports, the cost of which will be documented upon execution of the lease. In order for an unsuccessful initial applicant to be reimbursed for its own costs in obtaining 2 appraisal reports previously submitted, said unsuccessful initial applicant must have submitted a qualifying bid in this matter. In addition, if not already submitted, the successful bidder will obtain at its cost a plat of survey and legal description of the subject premises and submit same to the District within 21 days of the award.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The District offers all prospective tenants that are awarded leases through competitive bidding the opportunity to participate in the District's **Green Infrastructure Program**. Participation is voluntary for all private non-governmental entities. Under the program, private entities can receive a credit equal to $0.50 on the $1.00, up to 10% of the annual rent owed to the District, capped at the first 10 years of the lease, for expenditures related to pre-approved green infrastructure. If interested, see the *Green Infrastructure Program Information Sheet* included with this Bid Package.

The District will only respond to questions received online ONE WEEK prior to the date set to receive proposals. The District will not respond to questions received after this date. The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

The District's responses online are NOT official responses and, therefore, are not binding to the bidding documents. Any official interpretation or change to the bidding documents will be made only by addenda duly issued to all plan holders on record by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

The contact person for the request for proposal is Senior Attorney **Margarett S. Zilligen**. This contact person will provide responses to online inquires only. Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

The District reserves the right to accept any Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Proposals.

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO

Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune
March 15, 2023, March 22, 2023 and March 29, 2023

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 14-YEAR LEASE OF 22.9± ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 15660 CANAL BANK ROAD IN LEMONT, ILLINOIS; MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 23.03

LEASE NUMBER: 23-362-11

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: **April 4, 2023**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposal will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on April 4, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CHICAGO TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 22.9± acres of District real estate located at 15660 Canal Bank Road in Lemont, Illinois; Main Channel Parcel 23.03. The property has roadway frontage of approximately 2,469± linear feet along the southeast side of Canal Bank Road, and water frontage of approximately 962± feet along the northwest side of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, also known as the Main Channel, that supports barge operations. Road access to the property is available via Canal Bank Road. Municipal sewer and water are not extended to this area. The property is presently improved by a storage building measuring 4,167± sq. ft. and two small sheds. The property is partially covered in asphalt and concrete. As of the date of this Invitation to Bid, the property is zoned as "M-3, Heavy Manufacturing District." The property is located in the Village of Lemont. The Village generally supports ongoing commercial use of the property but disfavors using the property for exclusive truck and trailer parking on the site. Unless a lease is awarded to the current tenant occupying the property, possession of the leasehold may not commence before January 1, 2024.

It is possible that within the term of a new lease agreement that the boundary of the leasehold, specifically along the northern and western boundaries of Parcel 23.03 along Canal Bank Road, will be pulled back to accommodate the roadway purposes. This reduction would be only by a marginal amount, but that amount is not yet precisely known. Such use would slightly reduce the size of the leasehold. If that occurs during the term of a new lease, the District will reduce the rent in an amount proportionate to the percentage of property removed from the leasehold area.

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $5,000,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $500,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq, and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be caused for the rejection of any bid. Biding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

If any potential Proposer contemplating to submit a proposal is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the specifications or other contract documents, such inquiry should be submitted online at the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**. The path is as follows: (Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements). The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail or any other such form of delivery.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a bid deposit to be paid to the District via ACH (Automated Clearing House) transfer in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the initial annual rental based on bidder's Proposal. Payment of such bid deposit by check of any kind will not be accepted, and all bid deposits must be received no later than the bid opening time. Any proposal submitted without a timely submitted bid deposit will not be considered and will not be read after it is publicly opened.

To submit a bid deposit, visit **https://mwrd.org/form/submit-bid-deposit**, which will automatically take you to the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page. You can also access that page by visiting the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** and taking the following path: DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS → click *"Submit Bid Deposit"* link. At the *"Submit Bid Deposit"* page, click the drop-down menu for this Contract No. and select this contract, then fill in all required fields. Carefully review your information on this page and each subsequent page (SUBMIT BID DEPOSIT → PAYMENT → CONFIRMATION → RECEIPT) as you will not be allowed to continue to each next page unless all required fields are properly filled in. Upon completion of the process, an email will be sent to your attention acknowledging that payment of your bid deposit has been initiated and that payment, once approved, will be applied to your account. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your spam and junk email folders. Ensure the MWRD emails are not filtered as spam. Any questions concerning making such deposits should be directed to the District's Clerk/Director of Finance, Jacqueline Torres at **312-751-6500** or by email to **torresj@mwrd.org**, or Supervising Accountant Mete Hachim at **312-751-6516** or by email to **hachimm@mwrd.org**.

The required bid deposit will be forfeited in the event the successful bidder fails to execute a lease agreement within 13 days of its tender. All other deposits will be returned to the respective depositors. The form of the lease currently used for this transaction is available for inspection at the District office identified below.

The successful bidder, if other than the initial applicant, will pay to the District the cost for obtaining the applicant's two (2) appraisal reports, the cost of which will be documented upon execution of the lease. In order for the initial applicant to be reimbursed for its costs in obtaining 2 appraisal reports, said initial applicant must submit a qualifying bid in this matter. In addition, if not already submitted, the successful bidder will obtain at its cost a plat of survey and legal description of the subject premises and submit same to the District within 21 days of the award.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

The District offers all prospective tenants that are awarded leases through competitive bidding the opportunity to participate in the District's **Green Infrastructure Program**. Participation is voluntary for all private non-governmental entities. Under the program, private entities can receive a credit equal to $0.50 on the $1.00, up to 10% of the annual rent owed to the District, capped at the first 10 years of the lease, for expenditures related to pre-approved green infrastructure. If interested, see the *Green Infrastructure Program Information Sheet* included with this Bid Package.

The District will only respond to questions received online ONE WEEK prior to the date set to receive proposals. The District will not respond to questions received after this date. The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

The District's responses online are NOT official responses and, therefore, are not binding to the bidding documents. Any official interpretation or change to the bidding documents will be made only by addenda duly issued to all plan holders on record by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

The contact person for the request for proposal is **Senior Attorney Jeff Waldhoff**. This contact person will provide online inquiries.

The District reserves the right to accept any Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Proposals.

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO
By:
Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune: March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2023.

NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
TO
THE METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR
PUBLIC TENDER OF BIDS FOR A 14-YEAR LEASE OF 22.9± ACRES OF DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 15660 CANAL BANK ROAD IN LEMONT, ILLINOIS; MAIN CHANNEL PARCEL 23.03

LEASE NUMBER: 23-362-11

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: **April 4, 2023**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, must be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" below for instruction. Proposal will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on April 4, 2023.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 A.M. (CHICAGO TIME) ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED DUE DATE. MAILED, EMAILED, FAXED OR HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

The land to be leased is 22.9± acres of District real estate located at 15660 Canal Bank Road in Lemont, Illinois; Main Channel Parcel 23.03. The property has roadway frontage of approximately 2,469± linear feet along the southeast side of Canal Bank Road, and water frontage of approximately 962± feet along the northwest side of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, also known as the Main Channel, that supports barge operations. Road access to the property is available via Canal Bank Road. Municipal sewer and water are not extended to this area. The property is presently improved by a storage building measuring 4,167± sq. ft. and two small sheds. The property is partially covered in asphalt and concrete. As of the date of this Invitation to Bid, the property is zoned as "M-3, Heavy Manufacturing District." The property is located in the Village of Lemont. The Village generally supports ongoing commercial use of the property but disfavors using the property for exclusive truck and trailer parking on the site. Unless a lease is awarded to the current tenant occupying the property, possession of the leasehold may not commence before January 1, 2024.

It is possible that within the term of a new lease agreement that the boundary of the leasehold, specifically along the northern and western boundaries of Parcel 23.03 along Canal Bank Road, will be pulled back to accommodate the roadway purposes. This reduction would be only by a marginal amount, but that amount is not yet precisely known. Such use would slightly reduce the size of the leasehold. If that occurs during the term of a new lease, the District will reduce the rent in an amount proportionate to the percentage of property removed from the leasehold area.

The District's Board of Commissioners has established the fair market value of the property at $5,000,000.00 and the minimum initial annual rental bid at $500,000.00. A form lease to be used in this transaction is attached hereto. The District reserves the right to make any changes or modifications to the lease as it deems necessary prior to award of any lease.

The lease shall be awarded to the highest responsible bidder in accordance with bid procedures set forth by state law 70 ILCS 2605/8c et seq, and subject to the acceptance and approval of the bid by the Board of Commissioners of the District. The highest bidder will be required to provide financial statements and/or other information to establish its financial responsibility.

Copies of the bid documents are only available online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the bid documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of bid documents should be directed to **contractdesk.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer to successfully download any and all contract documents, including, but not limited to, specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District contract documents by the Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

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The contact person for the request for proposal is **Senior Attorney Jeff Waldhoff**. This contact person will provide online inquiries.

The District reserves the right to accept any Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Proposals.

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO
By:
Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement & Materials Management

Chicago Tribune: March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29, 2023.

NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

CONTRACT 23-004-11
FURNISH AND DELIVER MISCELLANEOUS STEEL AND STAINLESS STEEL TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD

Estimated Cost:	Group A:	$ 53,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group A:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group B:	$ 40,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group B:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group C:	$ 83,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group C:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group D:	$ 77,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group D:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group E:	$ 85,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group E:	NONE
Total for All Groups:		$338,000.00			Total: NONE

Bid Opening: **April 11, 2023**

CONTRACT 23-017-11
FURNISH AND DELIVER ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES, WIRE, AND CABLE TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD

Estimated Cost:	Group A:	$ 80,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group A:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group B:	$ 75,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group B:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group C:	$ 37,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group C:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group D:	$ 47,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group D:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group E:	$ 20,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group E:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group F:	$ 47,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group F:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group G:	$ 30,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group G:	NONE
Estimated Cost:	Group H:	$ 75,000.00	Bid Deposit:	Group H:	NONE
Total for All Groups:		$411,000.00			Total: NONE

Bid Opening: **April 11, 2023**

CONTRACT 23-070-11
FURNISH AND DELIVER MISCELLANEOUS BATTERIES TO VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD

Estimated Cost: $50,000.00 Bid Deposit: NONE
Bid Opening: **April 11, 2023**

CONTRACT 23-609-11
FURNISHING AND DELIVERING UNLEADED GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL TO FULTON COUNTY, IL

Estimated Cost is NOT to EXCEED: $38,000.00 Bid Deposit: NONE
Bid Opening: **April 4, 2023**

****

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice-Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, **www.mwrd.org**; the path is as follows: Doing Business ➔ Procurement and Materials Management ➔ Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at **www.mwrd.org** (Doing Business ➔ Procurement & Materials Management ➔ Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: **contractdesk@mwrd.org** or call **312-751-6643**.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
March 15, 2023

CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER

abc7
AccuWeather TEAM

Meteorologists Larry Mowry, Cheryl Scott, Jaisol Martinez, Tracy Butler and Greg Dutra

ABC7 Outlook: Mostly sunny to partly sunny today. After a cold start to the morning, temperatures will rise to 50 with a bit of a breeze developing.

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night	Day / Night
	High: **51** Low: **40**	High: **47** Low: **33**	High: **39** Low: **23**	High: **29** Low: **22**	High: **38** Low: **29**	High: **42** Low: **31**
	Warmer with a blend of sun and clouds	Breezy in the a.m., then rain and drizzle	Rain, then snow in the a.m.; windy, colder	Mostly cloudy, brisk and quite cold	Not as cold with plenty of sunshine	Sunshine and some clouds
	POP: **0%**	POP: **75%**	POP: **80%**	POP: **20%**	POP: **5%**	POP: **10%**
	Winds: **SSW 10-20 mph**	Winds: **SSW 10-20 mph**	Winds: **NNW 20-30 mph**	Winds: **NW 12-25 mph**	Winds: **W 7-14 mph**	Winds: **SSE 6-12 mph**

CHICAGO FORECAST

Wednesday Conditions

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™	1	3	4	4	3	1	0
RealFeel Temperature®	19	28	37	44	44	40	40

Wednesday Activities

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
Outdoor Activities Index	1	2	4	5	5	5	3
Fishing Index	0	0	5	8	3	0	0

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes**: **0-2**: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC

Tuesday Temperatures

O'Hare through 4 p.m.

High	**37**
Low	**20**
Normal high	**46**
Normal low	**31**
Record high	**81** (2012)
Record low	**7** (1993)

Local Temperatures
through 6 p.m. Tuesday

Location	Hi	Lo	Normal Hi	Normal Lo
Aurora	34	19	47	28
Gary	32	23	46	30
Kankakee	38	23	48	29
Lansing	35	23	46	29
Midway	36	22	47	31
Romeoville	37	22	48	29
Valparaiso	33	26	48	30
Waukegan	34	17	44	26

Tuesday Precipitation

	2023	2022	Normal
Tuesday*	Trace	0.00"	0.08"
Month to date	1.15"	0.52"	1.07"
Year to date	7.58"	3.96"	5.03"
Snowfall			
Tuesday*	0.2"	0.0"	0.2"
Month to date	1.8"	3.8"	3.4"
Season to date	19.6"	32.4"	35.0"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Tuesday

Air Quality Index

Tuesday's reading

Good

Wednesday's forecast

Moderate

Primary pollutant **Particulates**

Source: AirNow.gov

Sun and Moon

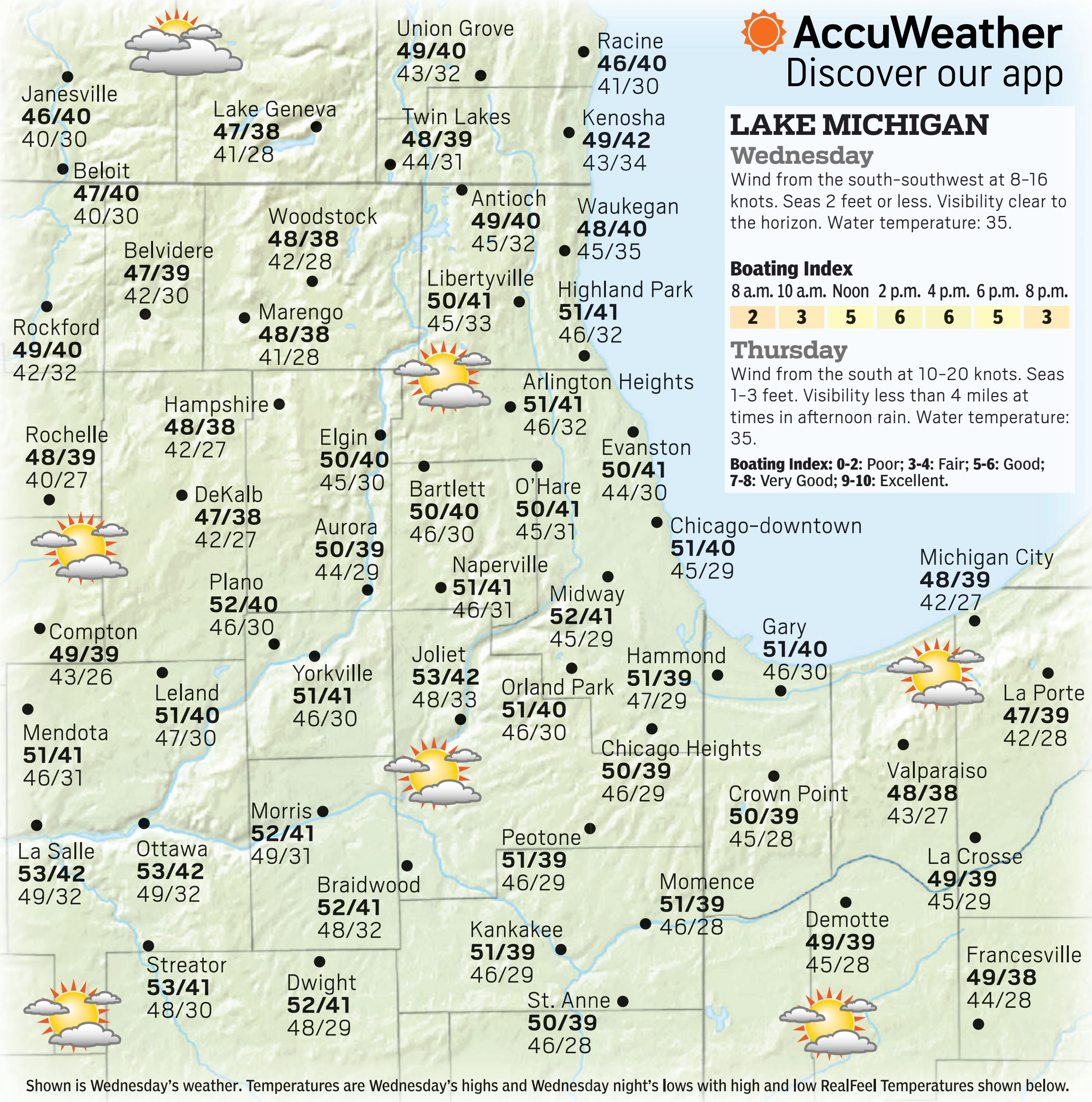
	Wed.	Thu.
Sunrise	7:03 a.m.	7:01 a.m.
Sunset	6:57 p.m.	6:58 p.m.
Moonrise	3:02 a.m.	4:05 a.m.
Moonset	11:37 a.m.	12:43 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 5	Apr 13

Wednesday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	7:08 a.m.	6:44 p.m.
Venus	8:21 a.m.	9:48 p.m.
Mars	11:12 a.m.	2:43 a.m.
Jupiter	7:55 a.m.	8:37 p.m.
Saturn	6:14 a.m.	4:50 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: 7:25 p.m. Mars: 7:25 p.m. Jupiter: 7:25 p.m. Saturn: 6:35 a.m. Mercury: not visible


Janesville 46/40 40/30
Lake Geneva 47/38 41/28
Union Grove 49/40 43/32
Racine 46/40 41/30
Twin Lakes 48/39 44/31
Kenosha 49/42 43/34
Beloit 47/40 40/30
Antioch 49/40 45/32
Waukegan 48/40 45/35
Woodstock 48/38 42/28
Belvidere 47/39 42/30
Libertyville 50/41 45/33
Highland Park 51/41 46/32
Rockford 49/40 42/32
Marengo 48/38 41/28
Arlington Heights 51/41 46/32
Hampshire 48/38 42/27
Rochelle 48/39 40/27
Elgin 50/40 45/30
Evanston 50/41 44/30
Bartlett 50/40 46/30
O'Hare 50/41 45/31
DeKalb 47/38 42/27
Aurora 50/39 44/29
Chicago-downtown 51/40 45/29
Naperville 51/41 46/31
Plano 52/40 46/30
Midway 52/41 45/29
Michigan City 48/39 42/27
Compton 49/39 43/26
Gary 51/40 46/30
Joliet 53/42 48/33
Hammond 51/39 47/29
Leland 51/40 47/30
Yorkville 51/41 46/30
Orland Park 51/40 46/30
La Porte 47/39 42/28
Mendota 51/41 46/31
Chicago Heights 50/39 46/29
Valparaiso 48/38 43/27
Crown Point 50/39 45/28
Morris 52/41 49/31
La Salle 53/42 49/32
Ottawa 53/42 49/32
Peotone 51/39 46/29
La Crosse 49/39 45/29
Braidwood 52/41 48/32
Momence 51/39 46/28
Demotte 49/39 45/28
Kankakee 51/39 46/29
Francesville 49/38 44/28
Streator 53/41 48/30
Dwight 52/41 48/29
St. Anne 50/39 46/28

AccuWeather
Discover our app

LAKE MICHIGAN

Wednesday

Wind from the south-southwest at 8-16 knots. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility clear to the horizon. Water temperature: 35.

Boating Index

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
2	3	5	6	6	5	3

Thursday

Wind from the south at 10-20 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility less than 4 miles at times in afternoon rain. Water temperature: 35.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

Shown is Wednesday's weather. Temperatures are Wednesday's highs and Wednesday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

ASK abc7

Larry Mowry

QUESTION: What is the current level of Lake Michigan and how does it compare to last year?

Leslie – Chicago

ANSWER: Lake Michigan currently has a level of 578.84 feet. This is 4 inches above the long-term average for this time of year. It is also 4 inches lower than last year at this time. Just three years ago, the lake was 2.5 feet higher in the month of March 2020. The lake is expected to rise 3 inches over the next month.

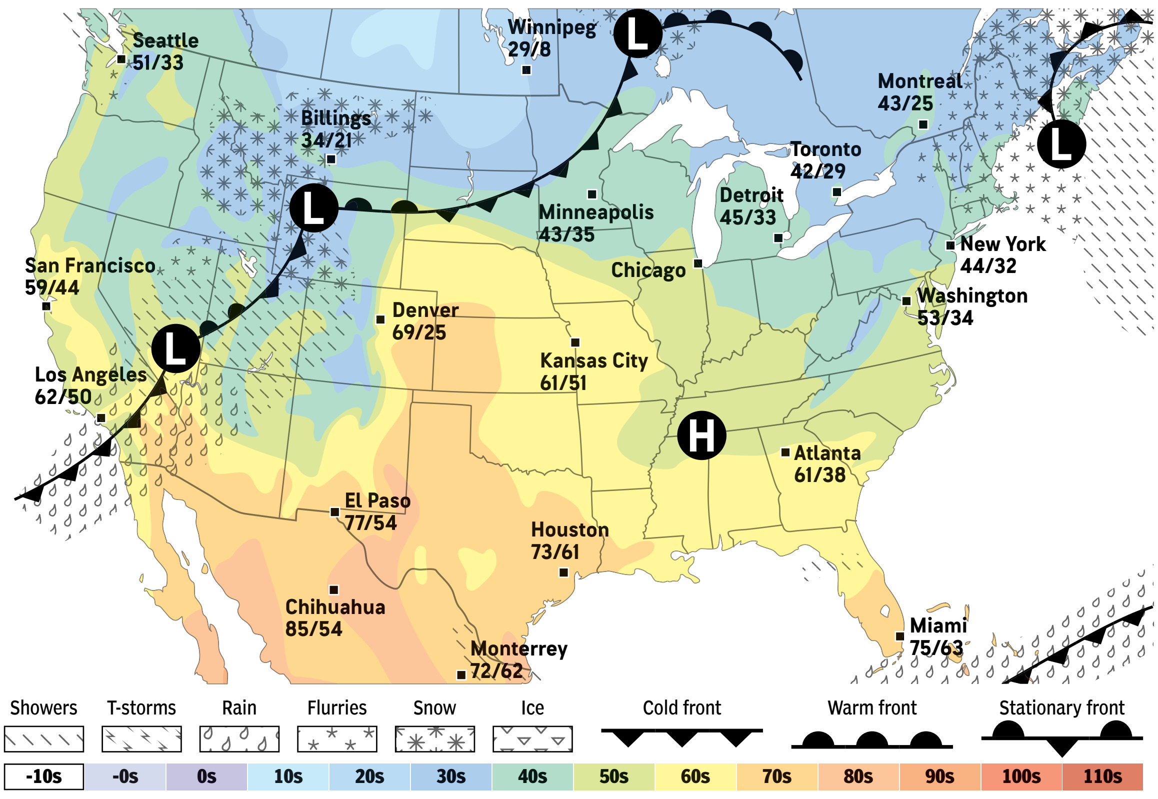
Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at **abc7chicago.com/weather** or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

NATIONAL FORECAST

AccuWeather | Visit AccuWeather.com

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.


Seattle 51/33
Winnipeg 29/8
Montreal 43/25
Billings 34/21
Toronto 42/29
Detroit 45/33
Minneapolis 43/35
Chicago
New York 44/32
Washington 53/34
San Francisco 59/44
Denver 69/25
Kansas City 61/51
Los Angeles 62/50
Atlanta 61/38
El Paso 77/54
Houston 73/61
Chihuahua 85/54
Miami 75/63
Monterrey 72/62
L
H
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Cold front
Warm front
Stationary front
-10s
-0s
0s
10s
20s
30s
40s
50s
60s
70s
80s
90s
100s
110s

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	53/41/pc	59/33/r
Champaign	51/39/pc	50/32/r
Decatur	52/40/pc	55/29/r
Moline	55/45/pc	51/29/r
Peoria	54/42/pc	51/30/r
Quincy	57/45/pc	52/24/r
Rockford	49/40/c	47/31/r
Springfield	54/42/pc	53/28/r
Sterling	51/41/pc	48/30/r
Indiana		
Bloomington	51/34/pc	58/41/r
Evansville	53/37/s	61/38/c
Fort Wayne	48/33/s	50/42/r
Indianapolis	50/35/pc	55/43/r
Lafayette	50/38/pc	52/40/r
South Bend	49/39/c	48/36/r
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	42/37/c	43/30/r
Kenosha	49/42/pc	49/33/r
La Crosse	48/43/c	46/24/r
Madison	45/38/c	48/29/r
Milwaukee	48/40/c	48/33/r
Wausau	44/39/c	44/26/sn
Michigan		
Detroit	45/33/s	50/44/r
Grand Rapids	45/36/pc	45/39/r
Marquette	42/33/c	34/21/c
Sault Ste. Marie	39/31/c	37/25/sn
Traverse City	46/38/pc	43/36/r
Iowa		
Ames	52/43/pc	46/15/r
Cedar Rapids	51/43/c	46/19/r
Des Moines	56/44/c	47/17/r
Dubuque	48/41/c	46/25/r

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	73/59/pc	79/33/t
Albany, NY	41/23/sf	45/35/pc
Albuquerque	63/42/c	54/29/s
Amarillo	76/49/pc	51/24/sh
Anchorage	25/23/s	26/25/s
Asheville	54/25/s	63/44/pc
Aspen	45/25/sn	37/16/sf
Atlanta	61/38/s	68/52/pc
Atlantic City	49/33/pc	54/45/pc
Austin	75/62/pc	80/42/t
Baltimore	52/30/pc	64/46/pc
Billings	34/21/sn	38/19/pc
Birmingham	60/38/s	68/58/pc
Bismarck	30/15/i	22/6/c
Boise	48/25/c	49/24/s
Boston	43/34/sf	49/38/s
Brownsville	80/71/c	84/64/c
Buffalo	37/29/pc	46/40/c
Burlington, VT	39/24/sf	43/35/c
Charleston, SC	60/35/s	68/48/pc
Charleston, WV	48/22/s	63/48/pc
Charlotte	58/32/s	65/45/pc
Chattanooga	58/31/s	67/52/pc
Cheyenne	59/18/c	29/16/sf
Cincinnati	51/32/s	60/48/c
Cleveland	43/34/s	57/46/c
Colorado Spgs	67/28/pc	34/17/sf
Columbia, MO	60/46/pc	58/25/r
Columbia, SC	61/32/s	68/45/pc
Columbus, OH	49/30/s	57/48/c
Concord	41/28/sf	47/32/pc
Corpus Christi	77/69/pc	83/52/c
Dallas	68/60/pc	69/37/t
Daytona Beach	63/45/c	73/55/s
Denver	69/25/c	35/17/sf
Duluth	39/31/c	34/15/sn
El Paso	77/54/c	69/39/c
Fairbanks	5/0/pc	9/4/s
Fargo	34/13/pc	19/5/sn
Flagstaff	40/31/sh	45/25/sn
Fort Myers	72/54/c	84/58/s
Fort Smith	61/49/s	60/33/t
Fresno	63/44/pc	65/44/s
Grand Junction	50/35/sh	46/26/c
Great Falls	30/15/c	32/14/pc
Harrisburg	49/28/s	62/41/pc
Hartford	44/29/sf	50/35/pc
Helena, MT	40/20/c	41/14/pc
Honolulu	85/74/sh	83/74/sh
Houston	73/61/s	76/46/t
Int'l Falls	38/24/c	31/13/sn
Jackson, MS	62/42/s	73/56/pc
Jacksonville	61/36/s	72/52/s
Juneau	36/32/sn	44/39/sn
Kansas City	61/51/pc	54/22/r
Las Vegas	68/49/sh	63/46/s
Lexington	51/32/s	60/49/pc
Lincoln	65/36/c	41/18/sn
Little Rock	57/44/s	63/39/t
Los Angeles	62/50/sh	62/50/pc
Louisville	54/36/s	63/52/c
Macon	63/32/s	71/46/s
Memphis	58/45/s	65/43/t
Miami	75/63/sh	78/65/s
Minneapolis	43/35/c	37/18/sn
Mobile	64/43/s	73/64/s
Montgomery	64/35/s	73/55/s
Nashville	56/36/pc	65/53/pc
New Orleans	66/51/s	77/68/pc
New York City	44/32/c	54/42/pc
Norfolk	54/37/s	59/47/pc
Oklahoma City	64/56/c	62/30/t
Omaha	63/37/pc	43/17/sn
Orlando	68/48/pc	78/55/s
Palm Beach	73/61/pc	76/64/s
Palm Springs	71/53/sh	76/55/s
Philadelphia	49/32/pc	58/44/pc
Phoenix	65/55/sh	70/51/pc
Pittsburgh	44/27/s	56/47/c
Portland, ME	43/29/sf	46/33/s
Portland, OR	52/34/sh	60/38/pc
Providence	45/32/sf	51/38/s
Raleigh	57/29/s	65/48/pc
Rapid City	55/20/c	32/20/sf
Reno	50/26/pc	49/28/s
Richmond	54/28/s	63/46/pc
Rochester	38/26/pc	50/36/c
Sacramento	62/37/pc	63/41/s
St. Louis	60/45/pc	57/27/r
Salem, OR	52/31/pc	61/31/pc
Salt Lake City	48/28/sh	46/26/pc
San Antonio	75/64/pc	83/45/t
San Diego	61/51/r	62/52/pc
San Francisco	59/44/s	61/47/pc
San Juan	89/72/pc	86/72/sh
Santa Fe	58/36/sh	49/23/pc
Savannah	61/33/s	67/49/s
Seattle	51/33/pc	54/37/pc
Shreveport	66/52/s	69/44/t
Sioux Falls	48/28/pc	31/11/sn
Spokane	47/26/c	48/27/pc
Syracuse	38/22/sf	46/38/pc
Tallahassee	64/35/s	72/52/s
Tampa	69/50/sh	78/62/s
Topeka	64/54/pc	59/23/c
Tucson	70/53/c	68/48/pc
Tulsa	64/55/pc	61/31/t
Washington, DC	53/34/pc	61/48/pc
Wichita	65/54/c	61/24/t
Wilkes-Barre	44/22/pc	55/38/pc
Yuma	76/54/pc	75/51/s

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice. **POP**: Probability of Precipitation.

WORLD CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	86/68/s	88/68/s
Algiers	70/43/s	75/53/s
Amsterdam	47/37/pc	55/45/c
Ankara	59/35/pc	55/39/c
Athens	63/50/t	59/49/c
Auckland	72/58/s	73/65/c
Baghdad	77/51/t	74/52/pc
Bangkok	94/77/pc	92/78/t
Barbados	86/76/pc	86/75/pc
Barcelona	62/49/pc	63/53/s
Beijing	54/26/s	56/33/c
Beirut	66/56/sh	68/56/s
Berlin	44/31/sh	49/35/pc
Bermuda	64/56/c	63/59/s
Bogota	64/48/sh	66/48/sh
Brussels	47/38/pc	56/47/c
Bucharest	56/40/c	45/35/r
Budapest	47/33/r	52/29/s
Bueno Aires	85/73/t	81/74/t
Cairo	70/56/s	78/59/s
Cancun	83/72/sh	84/75/pc
Caracas	87/74/pc	88/74/pc
Casablanca	78/47/pc	76/49/pc
Copenhagen	44/31/sh	42/37/c
Dublin	49/47/r	58/45/sh
Edmonton	26/9/pc	35/1/s
Frankfurt	46/29/sh	54/34/pc
Geneva	51/33/pc	59/37/pc
Guadalajara	82/52/t	84/48/s
Havana	82/61/sh	83/61/s
Helsinki	38/19/sh	37/12/s
Hong Kong	77/68/pc	79/68/pc
Istanbul	58/49/pc	55/46/r
Jerusalem	53/45/r	63/47/s
Johannesburg	79/55/pc	79/54/s
Kabul	67/45/c	67/48/c
Kingston	86/76/pc	86/74/c
Kyiv	54/38/c	41/33/r
Lima	82/71/c	81/71/pc
Lisbon	69/49/s	64/52/pc
London	48/44/pc	57/50/c
Madrid	70/39/s	75/50/pc
Manila	91/75/pc	91/77/c
Mexico City	72/50/t	75/49/sh
Monterrey	72/62/sh	89/63/pc
Montreal	43/25/c	37/31/sf
Moscow	43/35/pc	39/32/c
Munich	42/27/sn	49/30/pc
Nairobi	79/61/t	79/59/t
Nassau	76/64/r	76/64/s
New Delhi	91/68/pc	89/68/pc
Oslo	43/18/pc	40/31/c
Ottawa	39/25/s	39/30/sn
Panama City	88/71/sh	89/72/sh
Paris	52/40/pc	62/49/c
Prague	43/25/sn	46/29/pc
Rio de Janeiro	84/72/sh	83/74/r
Riyadh	86/61/t	83/58/s
Rome	65/42/pc	62/39/pc
Santiago	86/52/s	85/53/s
Seoul	55/25/pc	52/30/pc
Singapore	88/76/pc	89/77/s
Sofia	51/33/r	39/33/sn
Stockholm	39/19/pc	38/19/pc
Sydney	82/67/s	95/71/s
Taipei	80/63/s	82/64/s
Tehran	67/53/pc	65/49/t
Tokyo	61/50/s	67/53/c
Toronto	42/29/s	48/36/c
Trinidad	87/74/c	86/74/c
Vancouver	48/33/s	49/35/pc
Vienna	50/33/pc	50/32/pc
Warsaw	43/28/c	45/28/s
Winnipeg	29/8/c	16/8/c

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INSIDE NATION & WORLD • ARTS & LIVING Plus TV, comics and puzzles

Chicago Tribune

BUSINESS

Southwest is adding deicing trucks

After December breakdown, airline buys more to avoid repeat

By David Koenig
Associated Press

The CEO of Southwest Airlines pushed back Tuesday against the view that his airline's December breakdown was caused by a failure to invest enough money in crew-scheduling technology, instead blaming extremely cold weather that forced it to stop flying at some airports.

Southwest said it is buying more de-icing trucks and lining up additional de-icing pads at key airports and buying more engine covers and heaters to avoid a repeat.

The airline also said it will increase staffing during extremely cold weather, and it will improve phone systems for customers and employees.

A severe winter storm just before Christmas affected all airlines, but Southwest struggled far more than the others to recover. It wound up canceling nearly 17,000 flights in 10 days before resuming a normal schedule. Unions for pilots and flight attendants said technology used to reassign crews to planes bogged down, and workers spent hours on hold when they called headquarters for instructions.

Robert Jordan said the entire debacle could be traced to Southwest's inability to keep flying in extremely cold weather at key airports including Denver and Chicago Midway.

"I do not think we have a chronic underinvestment in technology," he said at a JPMorgan investor conference. He repeated a previous estimate that the Dallas company will spend more than $1.3 billion on information technology this year.

Jordan also defended the airline's business model against critics who say its point-to-point route map makes it more vulnerable to flight disruptions that start in one part of the country — caused by bad weather, for example — and then ripple across the network.

The frozen conditions in Denver and Chicago started the mess, he said, "and it would have caused the issue no matter what the network structure was."

Southwest said in a filing that it continues to expect to report a loss for the first quarter, with lingering fallout from the December crisis cutting revenue by up to $350 million. That is on top of an $800 million drop in fourth-quarter pretax income that Southwest attributed to the meltdown, which is being investigated by federal officials.

Northwestern players celebrate after being announced as the No. 7 seed in the West Region of the NCAA Tournament during a Selection Sunday watch party at Welsh-Ryan Arena in Evanston. The Wildcats will play No. 10 seed Boise State. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

March Madness expected to generate record betting

Illinois sportsbooks top $1B in January, with big tournament numbers projected

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

Three years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic canceled March Madness and delayed the launch of legal sportsbooks in Illinois, the NCAA men's basketball tournament is tipping off this week with more bettors than ever.

From resurgent office pools to online sports betting, 68 million Americans — 1 in 4 adults — are expected to wager a record $15.5 billion as the 68-team field is winnowed to one, according to the American Gaming Association.

Last year, March Madness generated about $3 billion in wagers.

"It's exponentially bigger," said Casey Clark, senior vice president of the American Gaming Association. "Not only are people returning to the brackets, but they're also adding things like a bet on a mobile sports app or going to a sportsbook that's now legal in their marketplace."

The $15.5 billion March Madness betting projection, which is based on a survey of 2,200 adults, includes brackets, legal sportsbooks, friendly wagers and illegal bets through bookies, according to the AGA. Illinois, one of the leading sports betting states, could account for a significant chunk of that total.

The tournament opens with four play-in games before the first round begins Thursday. The expansive field includes everyone from the defending champion Kansas Jayhawks to newcomers such as the Kennesaw State Owls.

Illinois and Northwestern earned berths in the tournament as well, which could boost March Madness interest — and betting — in Illinois.

Legal sports betting continues to grow in the state, hitting a record $1.07 billion in total wagers during January, according to data released Tuesday by the Illinois Gaming Board. That bodes well for February, where Super Bowl bets will be included, and March, where the Big Dance usually tops the Big Game in total handle.

Last year, Illinois sports bettors legally wagered a record $278.4 million during the men's basketball tournament, according to the Gaming Board.

Most of the action for March Madness, however, still comes through old school brackets, such as the typical office pool.

Winning a bracket contest requires handicapping every game in the tournament, which can be challenging when a Cinderella team knocks off a favorite — so-called bracket busters. The pandemic may have been the biggest bracket buster of all.

March Madness office pools were drained during the pandemic as remote workers, for the most part, weren't there to place their bets. With Chicago offices back to about 50% of pre-pandemic occupancy levels, according to the latest weekly study by Kastle Systems, a critical mass of employees are once again available to participate in March Madness office pools.

This year, more than 56 million people — the vast majority of March Madness bettors — plan to participate in a bracket contest, according to Clark.

"Bracket engagement alone is up more than 54% from last year," Clark said.

With sports betting now legal in 36 states, including Illinois, wagering on March Madness through a retail or online sportsbook is also growing rapidly. Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, a California-based research and

Turn to Betting, Page 3

The cheer squad takes the floor before Illinois plays Penn State in the Big Ten Tournament at the United Center on Thursday. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

$1.07 billion

Amount of total wagers during January in Illinois, according to data from the Illinois Gaming Board

$244 million

Amount of wagers projected during March Madness in Illinois, ranking the state fourth, according to Eilers & Krejcik.

Science and a cup: Batavia cafe aims to appeal to the curious

By David Sharos
For Beacon-News

Chicago resident Michael Kandah doesn't consider himself to be a world-class scientist, but hopes his new coffee venture in Batavia will appeal to curious people of all ages.

Last month, Kandah, 48, opened Smarty Pants Cafe, his first business venture which he hopes will "bring together people who want a neighborhood spot to drop by, listen, talk and participate in group science discussions and events."

The cafe at 817 N. Randall Road in Batavia was officially welcomed into the city recently with a ribbon-cutting that included Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke and Batavia Chamber President and CEO Margaret Perreault, as well as other business owners, family and friends.

A former electrician who worked for Amtrak, Amazon and various data centers around the country, Kandah acknowledged he is entering a crowded field in the marketplace, given there are so many franchise coffee shops as well as dozens of mom-and-pop cafes that dot the landscape.

"This really is about my side passion of science and learning about the world around us," Kandah said the day after the ribbon-cutting. "I was looking for a coffee shop or a meeting spot that was science-focused. You would think that these would be around, but it seems like the coffee shops are all similar in nature and I wanted to do a special interest place."

Kandah believes "there is a niche out there of people who are interested in science and are curious about the world around them" and that "like-minded people will find a home here in our cafe."

"I wanted something like this. I used to go to science meet-ups in Chicago but they were held in the Adler Planetarium in a cold, dark place — a conference center with the florescent lights and it didn't feel warm and inviting for people who were just curious," he said. "I'm not a scientist but I wanted to be around folks where I could ask questions."

Kandah admits his curiosity has led to his traveling a bit and trying to learn a little of the languages wherever is he going. He also collects mugs from his travels.

Smarty Pants Cafe definitely offers a science vibe as it includes an intimate setting with the science-related programming on TV in the background and a science bookshelf where people can come and check out books.

During the ribbon-cutting, Kandah unveiled a photo from the James Webb Space Telescope's collection of images which is now part of the cafe's science-related decor.

Not all the materials are "geeky," Kandah said, noting that "I've had grandmothers bring their granddaughters in and they just loved the pictures and the science books and it kind of gets them started."

Kandah said his choice of location was also influenced by the internationally-famous Fermilab that is located nearby.

"I thought there would be a more in-house market for scientists themselves to come in and feel comfortable sitting around and explaining things to a layman like myself," he said. "But it's not just scientists. I'm running into a lot of people who like the concept — they are into science and see how it has been beaten down the last few years and feel like now maybe there is a home. I've tried to make the cafe inviting for laymen like myself."

The cafe menu includes coffee, espresso, cappuccino, lattes and teas as well as natural food bars Kandah is getting from Silverland Bakery in Forest Park in a variety of flavors.

The coffee preparation and execution are being driven by coffee roaster Cafe Umbria, an Italian company with a roasting facility in Logan Square in Chicago.

"I tried their coffees and I've been working closely with them. The account representative comes in here and dials up my espresso machine and brewer and they have all the recipes," he said. "It's pretty much about working with them and the recipes and which coffee is best for whatever drink. It's not me experimenting."

Perreault spoke about the new business and said that despite the plethora of coffee outlets in the area "Smarty Pants Cafe is definitely going to be a different twist."

"They are not just an exciting, beautiful, cozy coffee place to hang out, their mission is to bring people together to talk about interesting, intellectual topics, a lot of science topics and presentations that cater to people who like to give a lot more thought to deeper topics," Perreault said.

David Sharos is a freelancer.

Owner Michael Kandah shows off his new coffee shop called Smarty Pants Cafe in Batavia, which he hopes will attract curious people looking to talk about science and other topics. DAVID SHAROS/BEACON-NEWS

US inflation, still high but easing, puts Fed in pickle

Some economists expect central bank to pause rate hikes in wake of bank failures

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer price increases eased slightly from January to February but still pointed to an elevated inflation rate that is posing a challenge for the Federal Reserve at a delicate moment for the financial system.

The government said Tuesday that prices increased 0.4% last month, just below January's 0.5% rise. Yet excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core prices rose 0.5% in February, slightly above January's 0.4% gain. The Fed pays particular attention to the core measure as a gauge of underlying inflation pressures.

Even though prices are rising much faster than the Fed wants, some economists expect the central bank to suspend its yearlong streak of interest rate hikes when it meets next week. With the collapse of two large banks since Friday fueling anxiety about other regional banks, the Fed, for now, may focus more on boosting confidence in the financial system than on its long-term drive to tame inflation.

That is a sharp shift from just a week ago, when Chair Jerome Powell suggested to a Senate committee that if inflation didn't cool, the Fed could raise its benchmark interest rate by a substantial half-point at its meeting March 21-22. When the Fed raises its key rate, it typically leads to higher rates on mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and many business loans.

When measured against prices a year ago, inflation has been easing for eight months. In February, consumer prices climbed 6% from 12 months earlier, down from January's 6.4% year-over-year increase and well below a recent peak of 9.1% in June. Yet it remains far above the Fed's 2% annual inflation target. Core prices in February rose 5.5% from 12 months ago, down slightly from 5.6% in January.

Nearly three-quarters of last month's price increase was driven by housing costs. But most economists expect rental cost increases to slow in the coming months as more apartment buildings are constructed and new leases are signed at lower price levels. Such a decline could further slow inflation.

Prices in the economy's sprawling service sector continued to accelerate last month. Restaurant prices rose 0.6% from January to February. Auto insurance jumped 0.9%, hotel costs a dramatic 2.3%.

Air fares, after easing for several months, soared 6.4% in February and are up 27% from a year ago. The Fed is heavily focused on services, which are labor-intensive and whose price increases are driven in large part by higher wages. Labor shortages in many services industries have led to sharp wage increases.

Clothing costs rose 0.8% last month. New car prices ticked up just 0.2% for a second straight month. Used car prices fell 2.8%, the eighth straight monthly decline.

Consumers are getting a bit of relief at the grocery store. Food prices rose 0.3% in February, the smallest monthly gain in nearly two years, though they're still up more than 10% from a year ago. The price of eggs, which has soared 55% from a year earlier, dropped 6.7% just in February.

10K Meta workers to lose jobs in latest cuts

By Mike Isaac
The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Meta, the owner of Facebook and Instagram, said Tuesday that it planned to lay off about 10,000 employees, or roughly 13% of its workforce, the latest move to hew to what the company's founder, Mark Zuckerberg, has called a "year of efficiency."

The layoffs will affect its recruiting team this week, with a restructuring of its tech and business groups to come in April and May, Zuckerberg said in a memo posted on the company's website.

The new announcement is the company's second round of cuts within the past half year. In November, Meta laid off more than 11,000 people, or about 13% of its workforce at the time.

Meta also plans to close about 5,000 job postings that have yet to be filled, Zuckerberg said in the memo.

Zuckerberg is culling employees after years of hiring at a breakneck pace. His company gobbled up workers as its family of apps, which also include WhatsApp, became popular worldwide. The coronavirus pandemic also supercharged the use of mobile apps, leading to more growth. At its peak last year, Meta had 87,000 full-time employees.

But as the global economy soured and digital advertising markets contracted last year, Zuckerberg began putting an end to unchecked growth. Meta trimmed employee perks. And after the layoffs in November, which largely affected the business divisions and recruiting teams, Zuckerberg hinted at further cuts.

On an earnings call in February, the chief executive said he did not want the firm to be overstuffed with a layer of middle management, or "managers managing managers."

Leaders are scaling back the minimum number of spots for shopping centers and apartment complexes. **BEN SKLAR/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Cities rethink parking needs

Excessive paving blamed for many societal woes, including cycling deaths, housing crisis

By Jane Margolies
The New York Times

Spying an empty spot in a parking lot, a driver flicks on the turn signal and steers the car into the space. This little maneuver happens so often across the country that it's done almost without a second thought.

But now, the humble parking spot is suddenly a hot topic. Scrutinizing their parking regulations, cities across the nation are rolling back requirements for new development.

The United States has about 2 billion parking spots, according to some estimates — nearly seven for every car. In some cities, as much as 14% of land area is covered with the black asphalt that engulfs malls, apartment buildings and commercial strips.

That the country is awash in parking spots stems from America's long-standing love affair with the car, compounded by arcane zoning codes that mandate off-street parking for real estate projects.

But paving over paradise, to paraphrase Joni Mitchell, is now being blamed for a number of societal woes, including the housing crisis, climate change and the rise in fatalities among pedestrians and cyclists.

The idea that the country has an overabundance of parking may come as a surprise to residents of big cities like Chicago, New York and Washington, where drivers are routinely hunting for a spot and sometimes even get into fights over parking spaces. Some worry that rolling back mandates may make it even harder to find that coveted spot.

But in city after city, minimum parking requirements, as they are called, are being struck down, thrilling progressives and real estate developers alike.

"It's snowballing," said Jeff Speck, a city planner and the author of "Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time."

Despite pushback from some residents not ready to share their favorite spot, hundreds of cities, from Gainesville, Florida, to Anchorage, Alaska, have overhauled their parking requirements. Dozens have repealed them — 15 in 2022 alone.

Changes in work modes may be coming into play: The rise in popularity of remote and hybrid work arrangements means fewer office workers are commuting daily, decreasing the need for parking.

Off-street parking sprang up in the 1920s with the rise in car ownership. Concerned that there would not be enough curb space for vehicles, towns and cities started to require that stores or apartment complexes provide parking for customers and tenants.

In the postwar period, when Americans were in thrall with the automobile and the federal government unfurled highways across the land, parking minimums were enshrined in zoning codes.

The rules were exacting: one parking space per apartment or one for every 300 square feet of a commercial building. It sounded scientific, but these ratios were not based on verifiable data about how many spaces were needed, said Donald Shoup, a professor of urban planning at UCLA.

But parking mandates encourage car ownership and use, Shoup said. They pockmark downtowns with stretches of asphalt that separate businesses and spread out cities, leading to more driving and more parking, even in areas with mass transit.

The mandates also constrain developers, who need to allot precious space to parking, driving up costs that are often passed on to tenants and customers.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Novo to reduce prices of insulin

Novo Nordisk will start slashing some U.S. insulin prices up to 75% next year, following a path set earlier this month by rival Eli Lilly.

The Danish drugmaker said Tuesday that pre-filled pens and vials of long- and short-acting insulins will see list price reductions. They include Levemir, Novolin, NovoLog and NovoLog Mix 70/30.

Novo also will drop the list price of unbranded products such as Insulin Aspart to match the lower price of the branded insulins.

The price cuts go into effect Jan. 1. A vial of NovoLog and NovoLog Mix 70/30 will drop 75% to $72.34 from $289.36. FlexPen options will fall to $139.71 from more than $500.

Levemir and Novolin vials and FlexPens will drop 65% from their current list prices.

Nigeria prolongs life of old money

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's central bank has extended the timeline to swap out its old currency for redesigned notes after the change triggered a cash shortage, forcing businesses to close and leaving millions unable to withdraw their money.

The Central Bank of Nigeria announced late Monday that the old notes of 200 naira (43 cents), 500 naira ($1.08) and 1,000 naira ($2.16) will remain legal tender until Dec. 31. Bank spokesman Isa Abdulmumin said the extension was meant to comply with a directive from the country's Supreme Court, which ruled that the program's implementation broke the law.

On Tuesday, both old and redesigned notes were still not available for thousands lined up at banks in Abuja, the capital.

Saudis place order for up to 121 Boeing planes

By David Koenig and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

Two Saudi Arabian airlines said Tuesday that they will order 78 jetliners from Boeing and take options to buy 43 more in a major boost for the American aircraft manufacturer.

The order for Boeing 787s will be divided between Saudi Arabia's flag carrier, Saudia, and a planned new airline called Riyadh Air, which Saudi officials introduced over the weekend.

At list prices, the combined deal would be worth about $37 billion if the options are exercised, but airlines routinely get deep discounts. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Relatively high oil prices have boosted Saudi Arabia's economy and government, making it easier for the kingdom to close a multibillion-dollar jet order.

The creation of Riyadh Air by the Saudi sovereign-wealth fund and the growth of Saudia are part of a broader Saudi strategy to diversify its oil-based economy. Saudi Arabia hopes to become a global aviation hub and attract 100 million annual visitors by 2030.

The kingdom's neighboring states of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have built up state-owned airlines and used their geographic location to become key connecting points for international travel.

"The ambition here in the kingdom is huge, and this today … is our first big order," Tony Douglas, the CEO of Riyadh Air, told CNBC. "There will be more orders."

The planes covered by the orders and options are long-range, two-aisle "widebody" jets, in industry jargon. Boeing and Europe's Airbus dominate the market.

The Saudi deal is also a boost for the Boeing 787, which the company calls the Dreamliner. Boeing has struggled with interruptions in delivering new 787s for more than two years because of production flaws.

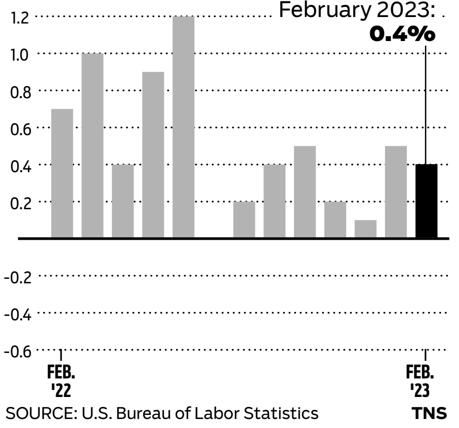
The Saudi deals will support about 1 million jobs in 44 states across the U.S. supply chain, including 150,000 new manufacturing jobs, administration officials said.

Last month, Air India announced it had agreed to buy 220 planes from Boeing.

Consumer Price Index

In February, the consumer price index gained 0.4 percent

CPI ONE-MONTH PERCENT CHANGE
Seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
TNS

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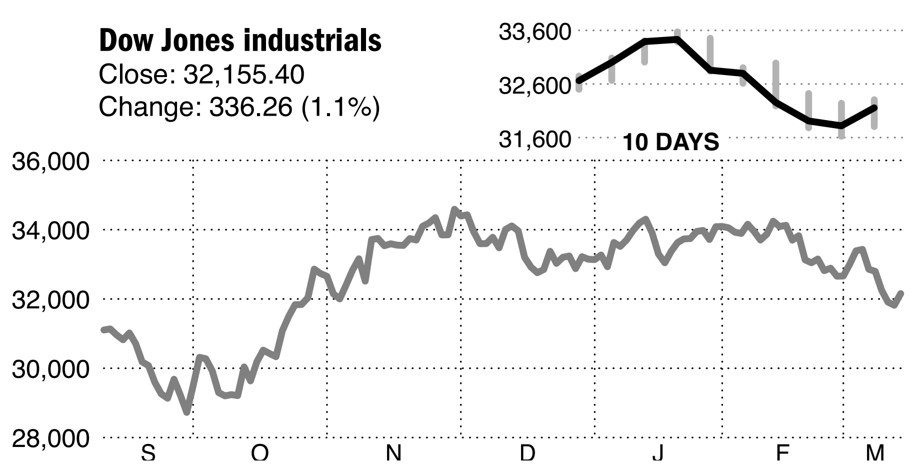
Who's Who in Local Business: Have a promotion or hire you'd like to tell the world about? Go to **placeanad.chicagotribune.com/whos-who**

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow **High: 32,306.59** **Low: 31,805.40** **Previous: 31,819.14**



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 32,155.40
Change: 336.26 (1.1%)

Nasdaq	
+239.31 *(+2.14%)*	
Close	**11,428.15**
High	11,467.01
Low	11,284.93
Previous	11,188.84

S&P 500	
+64.80 *(+1.68%)*	
Close	**3,920.56**
High	3,937.29
Low	3,873.63
Previous	3,855.76

Russell 2000	
+32.59 *(+1.87%)*	
Close	**1,776.89**
High	1,802.12
Low	1,760.08
Previous	1,744.30

10-yr T-note	**Gold futures**	**Yen**	**Euro**	**Crude Oil**
↗	↘	↗	↘	↘
+.14	**-5.50**	**+.83**	**-.0008**	**-3.47**
to 3.69%	to $1,906.20	to 134.19/$1	to .9310/$1	to $71.33

Major market growth and decline

5-day % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-2.13	-.89	-1.65
↘	↘	↘

30-day % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-5.67	-4.45	-5.21
↘	↘	↘

1-year % change

DOW	NASD	S&P
-4.14	-11.74	-8.02
↘	↘	↘

FUTURES

COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23				686.50	+14.25
		May 23	683	699.75	677.50	696.25	+11.75
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23	624	627.50	624	627.50	+3
		May 23	612.75	621.75	609.25	620.75	+7.25
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	Mar 23	1501	1502.50	1499.75	1499.75	-.25
		May 23	1490	1496.75	1484	1493.75	+2.50
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	Mar 23				55.84	+.50
		May 23	55.90	57.08	55.71	56.18	+.32
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	Mar 23	487.50	492.20	487.50	492.20	...
		May 23	479.30	482.70	472.20	481.20	+1.90
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Apr 23	74.70	74.90	70.78	71.33	-3.47
		May 23	74.77	75.02	70.94	71.49	-3.42
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu	Apr 23	2.624	2.674	2.530	2.573	-.033
		May 23	2.740	2.789	2.650	2.690	-.036
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Apr 23	2.6078	2.6127	2.5369	2.5530	-.0384
		May 23	2.5900	2.5998	2.5207	2.5362	-.0447

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization. *Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ*

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	98.55	+.36	Equity Residential	N	59.92	+.68	Middleby Corp	O	143.21	+1.12
AbbVie Inc	N	153.85	+1.90	Exelon Corp	O	41.34	-.05	Mondelez Intl	O	66.29	+.75
Allstate Corp	N	114.36	+.18	Federal Signal	N	52.78	+.61	Morningstar Inc	O	187.96	+1.37
Aptargroup Inc	N	115.08	+3.11	First Indl RT	N	52.28	+1.26	Motorola Solutions	N	266.25	+5.98
Arch Dan Mid	N	78.95	+1.73	Fortune Brands Innov	N	57.54	+.60	NiSource Inc	N	27.76	+.43
Baxter Intl	N	39.37	+.47	GATX	N	104.70	+4.05	Nthn Trust Cp	O	86.27	+4.06
Boeing Co	N	207.28	+3.91	Gallagher AJ	N	183.35	+3.38	Old Republic	N	24.70	+.80
Brunswick Corp	N	82.27	+1.46	Grainger WW	N	686.13	+11.27	Packaging Corp Am	N	131.35	+1.91
CBOE Global Markets	N	124.61	+2.35	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	110.35	+2.57	Paylocity Hldg	O	180.24	+4.02
CCC Intellig Solut	O	8.61	+.01	IAA Inc	N	40.27	+.10	RLI Corp	N	131.55	+2.60
CDW Corp	O	191.30	+2.88	IDEX Corp	N	223.96	+4.94	Ryan Specialty Group	N	37.57	+1.93
CF Industries	N	74.61	-.63	ITW	N	234.14	+3.88	Stericycle Inc	O	43.60	+.55
CME Group	O	185.37	+5.66	Ingredion Inc	N	97.26	+2.19	TransUnion	N	61.35	+1.67
CNA Financial	N	38.20	+.14	John Bean Technol	N	106.81	+2.11	US Foods Holding	N	36.55	+.45
Caterpillar Inc	N	225.67	+.97	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	150.03	+.17	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	518.42	+4.74
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	35.48	+.38	Kemper Corp	N	58.02	+2.48	United Airlines Hldg	O	46.21	-2.62
Deere Co	N	402.45	+4.23	Kraft Heinz Co	O	38.14	+.02	Ventas Inc	N	46.14	+1.22
Discover Fin Svcs	N	101.44	+3.92	LKQ Corporation	O	54.51	+1.10	Walgreen Boots Alli	O	33.29	-.28
Dover Corp	N	145.66	+2.21	Littelfuse Inc	O	263.23	+4.95	Wintrust Financial	O	74.97	+3.92
Equity Lifesty Prop	N	66.07	+.33	McDonalds Corp	N	265.90	+2.82	Zebra Tech	O	292.46	+7.54

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Bank of America	28.76	+.25
Fst Republic Bank	39.63	+8.42
Schwab Corp	56.68	+4.77
Ford Motor	11.93	-.10
Keycorp	12.17	+.79
AMC Entertainment A	4.64	-.82
Wells Fargo & Co	40.17	+1.76
Western Alliance Bcp	29.87	+3.75
Truist Financial Cp	31.88	-.36
Carnival Corp	9.07	-.17
TAL Education Grp AD	6.12	-.68
Citigroup	47.40	+2.66
Itau Unibanco Hldg	4.48	...
Bunge Ltd	104.62	+13.23
Credit Suisse Gp	2.51	-.03
Banco Bradesco ADS	2.55	-.01
Uber Technologies	32.36	+1.54
Palantir Technol	7.89	+.02
AT&T Inc	18.44	+.14
JPMorgan Chase	134.62	+3.37
US Bancorp	37.51	+.97
NY Cmty Bcp	6.47	+.07
Medical Prop Trust	8.52	-.17
Ambev S.A.	2.65	+.09

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Mullen Automotive	.16	-.01
Tesla Inc	183.26	+8.78
Exela Technologies	.05	-.00
Momentive Global Inc	9.28	+1.56
Apple Inc	152.59	+2.12
Bed Bath &Beynd	1.15	-.09
Faraday Fut Intllgnt	.39	-.04
PacWest Bancorp	13.05	+3.30
Huntgtn Bancshs	11.05	-.07
Adv Micro Dev	87.45	+5.44
Marathon Digital Hld	7.13	+.43
Amazon.com Inc	94.88	+2.45
Intel Corp	28.01	+1.06
Nvidia Corporation	240.63	+10.97
Fifth Third Bcp	26.38	+.13
Meta Platforms Inc	194.02	+13.12
SoFi Technologies	5.55	+.06
Rivian Automotive A	13.21	-.52
Alphabet Inc A	93.97	+2.86
American Airlines Gp	14.66	-.19
Microsoft Corp	260.79	+6.87
Plug Power Inc	12.16	-.24
Alphabet Inc C	94.25	+2.59
Riot Blockchain Inc	6.89	+.64

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3245.31	-23.4/-.7
Stoxx600	449.23	+6.4/+1.5
Nikkei	27222.04	-610.9/-2.2
MSCI-EAFE	2026.70	-.7/-.0
Bovespa	102819.96	-301.4/-.3
FTSE 100	7637.11	+88.5/+1.2
CAC-40	7141.57	+130.1/+1.9

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alphabet Inc C	94.25	+2.59
Alphabet Inc A	93.97	+2.86
Amazon.com Inc	94.88	+2.45
Apple Inc	152.59	+2.12
Berkshire Hath B	305.33	+2.45
Exxon Mobil Corp	106.94	+.40
JPMorgan Chase	134.62	+3.37
Johnson & Johnson	153.92	+.86
MasterCard Inc	352.82	+8.11
Meta Platforms Inc	194.02	+13.12
Microsoft Corp	260.79	+6.87
Novo Nordisk AS	142.95	+2.41
Nvidia Corporation	240.63	+10.97
Procter & Gamble	139.85	+1.71
Taiwan Semicon	89.29	+1.55
Tesla Inc	183.26	+8.78
Unitedhealth Group	464.58	+.90
Visa Inc	218.66	+4.19
WalMart Strs	138.10	+.73

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month Disc	4.71	4.70
6-month disc	4.71	4.59
2-year	4.25	4.02
10-year	3.69	3.55
30-year	3.80	3.70

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	$1906.20	$1911.70
Silver	$21.929	$21.973
Platinum	$997.30	$1004.90

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	7.75
Discount Rate Primary	5.25
Fed Funds Target	4.50-4.75
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.48

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys . . .

Argentina (Peso)	202.1427
Australia (Dollar)	1.4956
Brazil (Real)	5.2534
Britain (Pound)	.8214
Canada (Dollar)	1.3680
China (Yuan)	6.8716
Euro	.9310
India (Rupee)	82.284
Israel (Shekel)	3.6273
Japan (Yen)	134.19
Mexico (Peso)	18.6071
Poland (Zloty)	4.38
So. Korea (Won)	1306.34
Taiwan (Dollar)	30.51
Thailand (Baht)	34.55

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG IN $	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	28.70	+.15	-4.6
American Funds AmrcnMutA m	47.31	+.52	-2.1
American Funds CptWldGrIncA m	52.58	+.66	-1.8
American Funds CptlIncBldrA m	62.38	+.34	-1.6
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	61.41	+.95	-2.9
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	52.48	+.97	-7.6
American Funds IncAmrcA m	22.17	+.14	-2.8
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	42.20	+.63	-2.5
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	49.87	+.87	-3.8
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	50.88	+.63	-3.6
Baird AggrgateBdInstl	9.73	-.06	-6.2
Dodge & Cox Incl	12.40	-.05	-4.1
Dodge & Cox IntlStkI	44.13	+.50	+3.0
Dodge & Cox StkI	211.65	+4.23	-6.0
Fidelity 500IdxInsPrm	136.39	+2.29	-4.5
Fidelity BCGrowth	125.08	+2.82	-10.6
Fidelity Contrafund	12.62	+.25	-7.4
Fidelity GlobalexUSIdx	12.75	+.08	-1.2
Fidelity GroCo	24.46	+.48	-7.5
Fidelity IntlIdxInstlPrm	43.18	+.42	+2.2
Fidelity InvmGradeBd	9.98	-.06	-5.7
Fidelity TtlMktIdxInsPrm	108.63	+1.83	-5.1
Fidelity USBdIdxInsPrm	10.29	-.07	-6.3
Metropolitan West TtlRetBdI	9.22	...	-7.9
PIMCO IncInstl	10.43	...	-.6
PIMCO TtlRetIns	8.62	...	-7.5
Schwab SP500Idx	59.19	...	-6.8
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	362.79	+6.08	-4.5
Vanguard BalIdxAdmrl	40.52	+.30	-5.4
Vanguard DivGrInv	34.09	+.38	-.4
Vanguard EqIncAdmrl	81.04	+.98	-1.2
Vanguard GrIdxAdmrl	120.04	+2.57	-7.7
Vanguard HCAdmrl	86.34	+.96	+4.6
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	13.47	-.01	-1.3
Vanguard InsIdxIns	329.52	+5.53	-4.5
Vanguard InsIdxInsPlus	329.52	+5.53	-4.5
Vanguard IntlGrAdmrl	96.39	+1.66	-.6
Vanguard MdCpIdxAdmrl	254.10	+3.56	-5.2
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	132.00	+1.80	-1.8
Vanguard STInvmGrdAdmrl	9.98	-.04	-1.5
Vanguard SmCpIdxAdmrl	88.89	+1.49	-5.4
Vanguard TrgtRtr2020Fd	25.92	+.05	-4.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	17.07	+.07	-4.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	32.13	+.16	-4.7
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	19.83	+.13	-4.5
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	34.86	+.28	-4.3
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	23.41	+.22	-4.1
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	38.78	+.40	-4.0
Vanguard TrgtRtr2055Fd	43.27	+.45	-4.0
Vanguard TrgtRtrIncFd	12.49	-.01	-4.8
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	9.59	-.06	-6.2
Vanguard TtBMIdxIns	9.59	-.06	-6.2
Vanguard TtInSIdxAdmrl	28.70	+.17	-2.0
Vanguard TtInSIdxIns	114.76	+.68	-2.0
Vanguard TtInSIdxInv	17.15	+.10	-2.1
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl	95.34	+1.60	-5.2
Vanguard TtlSMIdxIns	95.36	+1.60	-5.2
Vanguard WlngtnAdmrl	66.32	+.60	-4.0
Vanguard WlslyIncAdmrl	58.90	+.06	-4.2
Vanguard WndsrIIAdmrl	66.72	+1.01	-3.3

d - Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee.
m - Multiple fees are charged, usually a marketing fee and either a sales or redemption fee.
Source: Morningstar.

Appeals court rules for Uber, Lyft in Calif. ride-hailing case

By Adam Beam
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — App-based ride hailing and delivery companies like Uber and Lyft can continue to treat their California drivers as independent contractors, a state appeals court ruled this week, allowing the tech giants to bypass other state laws requiring worker protections and benefits.

The ruling mostly upholds a voter-approved law, called Proposition 22, that said drivers for companies like Uber and Lyft are independent contractors and are not entitled to benefits like paid sick leave and unemployment insurance. A lower court ruling in 2021 had said Proposition 22 was illegal, but Monday's ruling reversed that decision. "Today's ruling is a victory for app-based workers and the millions of Californians who voted for Prop 22," said Tony West, Uber's chief legal officer.

The ruling is a defeat for labor unions and their allies in the state Legislature who passed a law in 2019 requiring companies like Uber and Lyft to treat their drivers as employees. "Today the Appeals Court chose to stand with powerful corporations over working people, allowing companies to buy their way out of our state's labor laws and undermine our state constitution," said Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, leader of the California Labor Federation and a former state assemblywoman who authored the 2019 law.

The ruling wasn't a complete defeat for labor unions, as the court ruled the companies could not stop their drivers from joining a labor union and collectively bargain for better working conditions, said Mike Robinson, one of the drivers who filed the lawsuit challenging Proposition 22.

The California Legislature passed a law in 2019 that changed the rules defining who is an employee and who is an independent contractor. It's an important distinction for companies because employees are covered by a broad range of labor laws that guarantee them certain benefits, while independent contractors are not. While the law applied to many industries, it had the biggest impact on app-based ride hailing and delivery companies. Their business relies on contracting with people to use their own cars to give people rides and make deliveries. Under the 2019 law, companies would have to treat those drivers as employees and provide certain benefits that would increase the businesses' expenses.

Betting

from Page 1

consulting firm, projects $2.59 billion in legal March Madness sports bets this year.

Illinois is projected to rank fourth with $244 million wagered during March Madness, or about 9.4% of the total legal sports betting handle, according to Eilers & Krejcik.

Nevada sportsbooks are expected to generate $362 million in March Madness betting, followed by New York at $343 million. Ohio, which just launched sports betting in January, is projected to surpass Illinois with $277 million in March Madness wagers.

"Since the market is so new, you have a really aggressive promotional environment in Ohio," said Chris Grove, a Chicago-based partner with Eilers & Krejcik. "Operators are just kind of flooding the market with promotional dollars, and that skews the revenue."

In 2019, the last pre-pandemic March Madness tournament, sports betting was only legal in a handful of states. Illinois launched sports betting at Rivers Casino in Des Plaines in March 2020, just days before it was shut down and the March Madness tournament was canceled by the pandemic.

Last year, more than $9.7 billion was legally wagered on sports in Illinois, up from about $7 billion the previous year, according to data from the Illinois Gaming Board. About 96% of the sports bets were placed online.

The state's nine sportsbooks generated $795 million in adjusted gross revenue in 2022 — the money kept after winnings are paid out — a 51% year-over-year increase, according to the AGA. New York led all states with nearly $1.4 billion in sports betting revenue last year.

January's record $1.07 billion sports betting handle translates to $96 million in adjusted gross revenue for the sportsbooks and $14.4 million in tax revenue for the state, according to the Illinois Gaming Board.

While Illinois is projected to place fourth in March Madness betting this year, a good showing by Illinois and Northwestern, which is making only its second NCAA tournament appearance, could boost the state's handle, according to Grove.

"That could help the market do a little better," Grove said. "But it's not going to be one of those things that moves the needle double digits."

Last year, a tweak to the state's 2019 sports wagering act allowed Illinois bettors to wager on in-state college teams during the NCAA basketball tournament for the first time, but only in person at four Illinois sportsbooks. The two Illinois entrants in the 68-team field didn't last long, with Illinois losing to Houston in the second round, and Loyola making a first-round exit at the hands of Ohio State.

The Illinois college betting provision is set to expire July 1.

Illinois and Northwestern play their first games in the West Region on Thursday.

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NATION & WORLD

Suit threatens to spill Saudi secrets

Operating golf tour may cost kingdom sovereign safeguards

By Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN
MAGA
LIV GOLF

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, from left, head of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, former President Donald Trump, LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman and Majed Al-Sorour, CEO of Golf Saudi, attend a LIV event at Trump's club in Bedminster, N.J. **SETH WENIG/AP 2022**

WASHINGTON — Officials who oversee Saudi Arabia's tens of billions of dollars in U.S. investments haven't been shy about flaunting their ties with top American business and political figures, down to wearing MAGA caps as they swing golf clubs alongside former President Donald Trump. But they've been silent about many of the details of these relationships.

That's changing as a result of a federal lawsuit in California pitting the Saudi-owned golf tour upstart LIV against the PGA Tour. A judge, citing what she described as the kingdom's hands-on management of LIV, found that when it came to the new golf league, Saudi officials and the Saudi government aren't shielded from U.S. courts the way sovereign nations usually are.

While Saudi Arabia is fighting the decision, insisting U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over its high officials, the ruling means lawyers for the PGA Tour would be able to question top officials about business secrets that the Saudis have held close, such as details of deal-making involving 2024 presidential candidate Trump and others.

U.S. District Judge Beth Labson Freeman found that the Saudis had smacked up against a commercial exception to U.S. laws on sovereign immunity.

Yasir Al-Rumayyan, appointed under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to manage the oil-rich Saudi government's $600 billion-plus stockpile of wealth, is "up to his eyeballs" in managing the golf tour, Labson Freeman declared.

The finding follows PGA Tour claims that Al-Rumayyan himself recruited LIV players, approved LIV contracts and was otherwise the golf league's decision-maker and manager. Lawyers for Saudi Arabia counter that Rumayyan's actions were those of an eager investor, not of someone actually running a business.

The case matters beyond the world of golf. Saudi Arabia has been assertive in U.S. business investments and political relationships and could now face court demands for greater transparency and accountability.

The insistence by Saudi officials that U.S. courts have little or no say over their actions is especially sensitive.

Last year, the kingdom, with legal backing from the Biden administration, successfully argued that American courts had no authority to try the prince in a lawsuit over the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi. U.S. intelligence officials had concluded that aides and other Saudi officials sent by the prince killed Khashoggi. The slaying has opened a lasting rift between the Biden administration and Prince Mohammed, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler.

Longstanding international law generally protects the leaders and government of one country from being hauled into another country's courts. Congress carved out commercial activity as an exception to that sovereign immunity in 1976.

The PGA Tour argued in a filing Friday that Saudi Arabia and its sovereign wealth fund under the prince have a record of flip-flopping on insisting upon sovereign immunity, depending on whether doing so works to their advantage in various business deals and lawsuits.

Saudi Arabia's critics and independent legal experts and analysts say the kingdom may be in a tough spot legally.

"It seemed to me very clear that it wasn't immune" from U.S. courts when it came to operating the LIV golf tour and tournaments, said Donald Baker, a lawyer and a former head in the Justice Department's antitrust division who is not involved in the case.

Baker projected the case could lead to California's Northern District federal court seeking depositions from Saudi royals.

Any decisions on whether other Saudi government business deals in the United States have similarly lost their immunity from U.S. courts would have to be made on a case-by-case basis, he said.

Sarah Leah Whitson, who runs the Democracy for the Arab World Now rights group founded by Khashoggi, said that "if they want to have sovereign immunity from their business transactions, it means they can sue people, they can demand that the judicial system enforces contracts and the laws governing contracts, but nobody can impose that against them. Nobody can hold them accountable."

The Saudi-funded professional golf tour, now in its second season and with a slogan of "Golf, but louder," is known for its blaring music, record multimillion-dollar purses, ties with Trump and unfriendly rivalry with the long-running PGA Tour.

Trump courses this year will host three LIV tournaments, in deals whose financial terms have not been publicly disclosed.

Saudi Arabia's immunity problem comes in an antitrust lawsuit that was initially brought by LIV players against the long-established PGA Tour. The case already has revealed that the Saudi government's sovereign wealth fund owns 93% of LIV.

A lawyer for Saudi Arabia's side of the case did not respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment. A LIV spokeswoman referred questions to the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, which also did not respond to requests for comment.

Under the now eight-year rule of Saudi Arabia's king, Salman, his son Prince Mohammed has made the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund a primary tool of Saudi investment at home and abroad. The prince is the fund's chairman. Saudi officials say the aim is to diversify the kingdom's oil-funded economy.

Under Prince Mohammed and fund governor Al-Rumayyan, the fund has more than $30 billion invested in Uber, Meta, luxury electric car brand and Tesla rival Lucid, Paypal, Costco and other publicly traded U.S. businesses.

The fund also has consolidated Saudis' relationship with the Trump family, using Trump golf courses and directing $2 billion to the investment firm of Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Al-Rumayyan sits on the board of Uber. He plays golf with Trump. He triggered one of Elon Musk's biggest tweet storms and legal cases, when Musk tweeted about what he later testified was the prospect of a Saudi sovereign wealth fund deal to take Tesla private.

The Saudi sovereign wealth fund also is spending heavily on sports. In addition to creating the LIV golf tour, the Saudis have bought the Newcastle United soccer team in Britain's Premier League and hosted Formula One races, horse races with record prize money, and other tournaments and matches, from snooker to boxing and chess.

Bank failure spurs DOJ investigation, sources say

Focus unclear, but may concern execs' recent stock sales

By Matthew Goldstein and Katie Benner
The New York Times

Silicon Valley Bank
svb
3003

A Silicon Valley Bank worker tells customers Friday at its Santa Clara, Calif., headquarters that the bank is closed. State regulators shut down the bank that morning. **JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY**

The Justice Department has opened an investigation into the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the California lender that was taken over by federal regulators Friday after its depositors rushed to pull their money out of the bank, two people with knowledge of the matter said.

The investigation is in its early stages, and it is unclear just what federal prosecutors are focused on, the person said. A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment.

One potential focus could be sales of company shares by several bank executives in the weeks before the bank's failure, several legal experts said.

The sales generated millions of dollars in proceeds, although some of the bank's executives sold stock pursuant to insider selling plans that set the timing of such sales in advance. Such plans are set up by corporate executives to avoid the appearance of trading on confidential information.

For example, under a prearranged plan, Silicon Valley Bank's former chief executive, Gregory Becker, exercised options in late February that permitted him to sell shares worth about $3 million for around $287 a share; the sales were disclosed in a regulatory filing March 1. The filing also shows the stock trading plan was set up Jan. 26 when bank shares closed at $296.

Some politicians have said the bank executives should return any money they made from those stock sales.

Becker could not be immediately reached for comment. The investigation was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

It is not uncommon for investigators to look into prearranged stock selling plans when the sales take place shortly before bad news that tanks a company's stock.

The SEC also has opened an investigation led by the commission's office in San Francisco, said a person briefed on the matter.

Andrew Calamari, a lawyer for Finn Dixon & Herling and a former director of the New York office of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said insider sales were an obvious issue for prosecutors to investigate. He also said any SEC investigation would look at the insider sales as well as the disclosures by the bank about its financial health.

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank was precipitated by a bank run by customers who tried to withdraw so-called uninsured deposits — accounts that exceeded the $250,000 limit on federally guaranteed deposit insurance.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized the bank Friday and two days later seized another bank, Signature Bank, that was facing a similar problem. The FDIC and the Federal Reserve also said all depositors of both banks would be made whole.

The bank failures raised fears of depositors pulling their money out of regional lenders — a move that could destabilize the banking system. But the actions taken by federal regulators over the weekend appeared to stem some of that fear, pushing stocks of regional banks higher Tuesday.

As the specter of possible legal action loomed for Silicon Valley, regulators have also come under fire as the Federal Reserve is facing stinging criticism for missing what observers say were clear signs that Silicon Valley was at high risk of collapsing.

The Fed was the primary federal supervisor of the bank, which was also overseen by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation.

Critics point to many red flags surrounding Silicon Valley Bank, including its rapid growth since the pandemic, its unusually high level of uninsured deposits and its many investments in long-term government bonds and mortgage-backed securities, which tumbled in value as interest rates rose.

"It's inexplicable how the Federal Reserve supervisors could not see this clear threat to the safety and soundness of banks and to financial stability," said Dennis Kelleher, chief executive of Better Markets, an advocacy group.

Wall Street traders and industry analysts "have been publicly screaming about these very issues for many, many months going back to last fall," Kelleher added.

On Monday, chair Jerome Powell announced that the Fed would review its supervision of Silicon Valley to understand how it might have better managed its regulation of the bank. The review will be conducted by Michael Barr, the Fed vice chair who oversees bank oversight, and will be publicly released May 1.

"We need to have humility," Barr said, "and conduct a careful and thorough review of how we supervised and regulated this firm and what we should learn from this experience."

Associated Press contributed.

Biden says Carter, 98, has asked him to deliver eulogy at his funeral

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

ATLANTA — President Joe Biden says he plans to deliver the eulogy at the funeral of former President Jimmy Carter, who remains under hospice care at his home in south Georgia.

Biden told donors at a California fundraiser this week about a visit to see the 39th president, whom he has known since he was a young Delaware senator supporting Carter's 1976 presidential campaign.

"He asked me to do his eulogy," Biden said, before stopping himself from saying more. "Excuse me, I shouldn't say that."

Carter

Carter, who at 98 is the longest-lived U.S. president, announced Feb. 18 that he would spend his remaining days at home receiving end-of-life care, forgoing further medical intervention after a series of short hospital stays.

The Carter Center in Atlanta and the former president's family members have not disclosed details of his condition, though Biden alluded to Carter's 2015 cancer diagnosis and subsequent recovery.

Some Carter family members have confirmed that the former president will have a state funeral in Washington, along with a private funeral and burial in Plains, Georgia.

"I spent time with Jimmy Carter and it's finally caught up with him, but they found a way to keep him going for a lot longer than they anticipated because they found a breakthrough," Biden said in Rancho Sante Fe, Calif.

Biden, 80, and first lady Jill Biden visited Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, 95, at their home in Plain a few months after Biden took office in 2021.

Biden was the first U.S. senator to endorse Carter's 1976 presidential bid, breaking from the Washington establishment that Carter — then a former one-time Georgia governor — shocked by winning the Democratic nomination.

Biden's presidency represents a turnabout, of sorts, for Carter's political standing. He served one term and lost in a landslide to Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980, prompting top Democrats to keep their distance, at least publicly.

Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama did not have close relationships with Carter. And the long-shot presidential candidates who sometimes ventured to Plains over the years typically did so privately.

But as the Carters' global humanitarian work and advocacy of democracy via the Carter Center garnered new respect, Democratic politicians began publicly circulating back to south Georgia ahead of the 2020 election cycle. And with Biden's election, Carter again found a genuine friend and ally in the Oval Office.

Haunted by riot, Brazil's Lula reins in army

Nation's military is full of supporters of former president

By Mauricio Savarese and Carla Bridi
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — When rioters stormed Brazil's top government buildings in January to dispute the outcome of the presidential election, many soldiers stood by as far-right protesters broke windows, defecated in offices and destroyed valuable art.

The images from Brasilia that day still haunt the left-leaning government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. He has strived ever since to ensure that military leaders defend South America's largest democracy and stay out of politics.

The threat isn't just hypothetical. Brazil has lived through four military coups — the most recent one in 1964, followed by two decades of brutal dictatorship.

Lula's task is fraught. The military is filled with supporters of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, and its role in the new government is being diminished by the day.

Lula has already tapped more than 100 civilians to replace military officers Bolsonaro appointed to key positions, and he has moved oversight of the country's intelligence agency to his chief of staff's office, among other changes.

"Lula needed to manage his relationship with the military to be able to govern, and will continue to do so," said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo.

Melo said Brazil's military has long believed that it has "some kind of guardianship of the country's political process," and Bolsonaro only fueled that belief.

Bolsonaro, a former army captain, appointed more than 6,000 military officers to jobs across his government and revived an annual commemoration of the 1964 coup to stoke nostalgia for the days of military rule.

Supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro sit in front of police Jan. 8 inside the Planalto Palace in Brasilia, Brazil. While hundreds of civilians who took part in the riot have been jailed, service members have thus far been spared. **ERALDO PERES/AP**

Although that era was marked by human rights abuses and the loss of civil liberties, Bolsonaro and many of his supporters remember it fondly as a time of strong nationalism, economic growth and conservative values. They view Lula's efforts to tame the military as heavy-handed and misguided.

"Stop looking through the rearview mirror and govern for all Brazilians," Bolsonaro's former vice president, Gen. Hamilton Mourao, who is now a senator, said in an interview.

The most significant move Lula has made so far has been to elevate Gen. Tomas Paiva to be the army's top commander.

Paiva, 62, has pledged to keep soldiers out of politics and to respect the results of October's election, in which Lula beat Bolsonaro by a razor-thin margin.

Yet Paiva has also acknowledged that most the military's leaders voted for Bolsonaro, and he lamented Lula's victory to subordinates just three days before the new president called to offer him the promotion — comments he later said were misinterpreted.

Lula has taken various other steps aimed inoculating Brazil from the risk of another violent uprising with at least tacit support from some in the military:

- He blocked the appointment of a Bolsonaro loyalist to command the Goiania Battalion, based an uncomfortably close 124 miles from the capital.
- He placed the country's intelligence agency — formerly overseen by members of the military — under the office of his chief of staff, which is led by civilians.
- He took a symbolically important trip to the U.S., which before the election had warned Brazilian military leaders to steer clear of politics if they wanted access to arms purchases and cooperation from American armed forces.

For now, there is no evidence of another uprising being planned or of military leaders questioning Lula's orders, according to a high-ranking official in the army and a person who works closely with the defense minister, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lula enlisted the military's cooperation twice in February: as part of a massive operation to expel some 20,000 illegal miners from the Yanomami Indigenous area in Brazil's Amazon, and to help rescue people after mudslides near Sao Paulo.

These represented early tests of the relationship between Lula and the military, and the results were very positive, said political consultant Thomas Traumann. Still, there's no guarantee of long-term stability, he said.

It remains to be seen whether military retirees and active duty service members who either took part in the Jan. 8 riots or turned a blind eye to them will receive punishment. Some analysts believe that would be important to deter future action.

One video from Jan. 8 showed policemen at the presidential palace in the rare position of barking orders at soldiers: "Lead your troops!" one officer shouted at members of the presidential guard, which is part of the army.

Another video showed dozens of rioters surrounded by police in the palace, as a general attempts to free them. "Are you nuts?" a policeman asks. "They're in custody!"

Hundreds of civilians who participated in the riots have been jailed and dozens indicted. But service members have so far been spared. The military prosecutors' office and the top military court have opened 17 investigations, although neither has been transparent about the process.

The incoming Chief Justice of Brazil's Superior Military Court, Joseli Camelo, said he was encouraged recently when the army canceled a plan to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the 1964 military coup, the dictatorship-era tradition that Bolsonaro had revived.

"This is just another demonstration that the commander is aligned with all the powers towards our common challenge, which is to pacify Brazil and definitively reinforce democracy in our country," Camelo said.

Mourao, Bolsonaro's former vice president, says the military should not spare any of its members who are proven guilty of taking part in the riots. "The armed forces are shaped to be rigorous in the investigation of disciplinary errors and military crimes," he said.

Even before taking office in January, Lula — who served as president from 2003 to 2010 — knew it was essential for him to bolster ties with the country's right-leaning military.

In Lula's first two presidential terms, his relationship with the military was marked by conciliation rather than confrontation, said Fabio Victor, a journalist who just published a bestselling book on Brazil's armed forces and politics. But Jan. 8 appears to have altered his calculus.

In contrast with Bolsonaro's administration, few members of the armed forces work at the presidential palace, Victor said. With an eye toward the future, Lula's allies in Congress are pushing for constitutional changes that would more clearly define the military's powers and limits, and his ministers are looking at overhauling military education.

"Lula today is very suspicious of the military," Victor said.

Pamela Cerruti and her husband, Patrick, remove money out of washing machines Tuesday inside their flooded Pajaro Coin Laundry in Pajaro, California. **JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY**

Winter storms hammering residents from coast to coast

By Haven Daley and John Antczak
Associated Press

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — The latest powerful atmospheric river to drench California has put nearly 27,000 people under evacuation orders Tuesday due to flooding and landslide risks.

On the central coast, workers hauled truckloads of rocks to plug a broken river levee amid steady rain and wind.

At one end of the muddy Pajaro River's ruptured levee, the long arm of a yellow earth-moving machine pressed rocks into place before big boulders were brought in to fill the gap that opened late Friday, about 70 miles south of San Francisco.

The levee breach grew to at least 400 feet since the failure, officials said.

More than 8,500 people were forced to evacuate, and about 50 people were rescued as the water rose Friday night.

Forecasters warned of potentially damaging winds with gusts up to 70 mph, and there were numerous reports of falling trees.

Power outages hit more than 330,000 utility customers in northern and central areas, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks outages nationwide.

So far this winter, California has been battered by 10 previous atmospheric rivers — long plumes of moisture from the Pacific Ocean — as well as powerful storms fueled by arctic air that produced blizzard conditions.

Meanwhile, a winter storm dumped heavy, wet snow in parts of the Northeast, causing tens of thousands of power outages, widespread school closings, dangerous driving conditions and a plane to slide off a taxiway.

The storm's path included parts of New England, upstate New York, northeastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey.

Snow totals by the time it winds up Wednesday were expected to range from a few inches to a few feet, depending on the area.

New Hampshire state police asked drivers to stay off the roads Tuesday afternoon due to whiteout conditions that caused numerous crashes. State police said they had dealt with more than 120 accidents.

In Syracuse, New York, a Delta Air Lines plane veered off a paved surface as it taxied for takeoff Tuesday morning.

Flight 1718, which was bound for New York City's LaGuardia Airport, slid into a grassy area north of the runway, forcing passengers off the plane and onto buses back to the terminal, according to airport officials. No one was injured and the airport remained opened.

Back in California, evacuation orders began at 8 a.m. in Santa Barbara County for several areas burned by wildfires in recent years, creating increased risk of flash floods and debris flows.

The storm added to woes that caused emergency declarations for 40 counties. In addition to evacuation orders, more than 71,600 people were under evacuation warnings and 546 people were in shelters, said Brian Ferguson, spokesperson for the California Office of Emergency Services.

More flooding was expected.

Biden signs executive order, vows more on gun violence

By Zeke Miller and Colleen Long
Associated Press

MONTEREY PARK, Calif. — The grief is still suffocating, the anger still visceral, President Joe Biden said Tuesday, in this suburban Los Angeles community where a gunman stormed a dance hall and killed 11 in January. He announced fresh federal measures to curb gun violence but emotionally declared there must be more.

"Do something. Do something big," he implored.

"I'm determined to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines," Biden told the families of some of the victims who were in the audience, along with the 26-year-old who wrestled the pistol away from the gunman.

Biden's rhetoric has grown ever stronger about guns — he routinely calls for banning assault weapons — in pushing a gun-control platform even tougher than during the Obama administration when he was vice president. He has been emboldened by the midterm elections when his regular talk of gun control didn't result in massive Democratic losses, and he's expected to continue to argue for strong changes as he moves toward a 2024 reelection run, his aides say.

"We remember and mourn today," Biden said in Monterey Park. "But I'm here with you today to act."

The president told the crowd he'd signed an executive order aimed at stiffening background checks to buy guns, promoting more secure firearms storage and ensuring law enforcement agencies get more out of a bipartisan gun control law enacted last summer.

But Biden has only limited power to go beyond that legislation, passed after deadly shootings at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store and a Uvalde, Texas, elementary school.

President Joe Biden discusses his efforts to reduce gun violence Tuesday at the Boys & Girls Club of West San Gabriel Valley in Monterey Park, California. **JIM WATSON/GETTY-AFP**

His action on Tuesday does not change government policy. Rather, it directs federal agencies to ensure compliance with existing laws and procedures — a typical feature of executive orders issued by presidents when they confront the limits of their own power to act without cooperation from Congress.

"Let's be clear, none of this absolves Congress from the responsibility of acting to pass universal background checks, to eliminate gun manufacturers immunity to liability," Biden said.

Biden, in the order, acknowledged Congress' opposition, but said, "In the meantime, my administration will continue to do all that we can, within existing authority, to make our communities safer."

The order directs the Cabinet to work on a plan to better structure the government to support communities suffering from gun violence. The plan calls on Attorney General Merrick Garland to shore up the rules for federally licensed gun dealers so they know they are required to do background checks.

Biden is also mandating better reporting of ballistics data from federal law enforcement for a clearinghouse that allows federal, state and local law enforcement to match shell casings to guns. But local and state law enforcement agencies are not required to report ballistics data, and many do not, making the clearinghouse less effective.

And the president is asking the Federal Trade Commission to issue a public report analyzing how gun manufacturers market to minors and use military images in marketing.

The bill passed last year, known as the Safer Communities Act, is viewed by gun control advocates as a good start but one that doesn't go far enough.

Pro-gun groups said Tuesday's order would do little to stop growing gun violence.

"The reality is that nothing in the president's executive order today would have done anything to prevent the recent mass shootings in California, Michigan or elsewhere," said Katie Pointer Baney, the managing director of government affairs for the U.S. Concealed Carry Association. "It's time for the president and political leaders across the country to have an honest conversation with the American people and acknowledge there is no legislative fix that will permanently solve the issue of gun violence."

US extending humanitarian parole

20,000 Ukrainians can stay in country for another year

By Rebecca Santana
Associated Press

Ukrainians who fled Russia's invasion wait in a gymnasium last April in Tijuana, Mexico, before being allowed into the United States. **GREGORY BULL/AP 2022**

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is allowing thousands of Ukrainians who fled their homeland when Russia invaded a year ago to stay in the United States longer, the administration said this week.

The decision provides relief to Ukrainians whose one-year authorization to remain in the U.S. was set to expire soon.

The Homeland Security Department said the extension is for certain Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members who were let into the U.S. before the Uniting for Ukraine program started.

Ukrainians who came in under the program generally got two years of humanitarian parole in the U.S. whereas those who arrived before them generally got permission to stay only for one year. Resettlement agencies have estimated that there are about 20,000 Ukrainians in the one-year group.

Thousands of Ukrainians came to America last year fleeing the war.

The U.S. government used a program called humanitarian parole to admit them into the country. That program is a way to allow people from other countries to enter the United States on an emergency basis due to an urgent humanitarian situation. But it is usually for a finite amount of time, like a year or two years, and must be renewed for people to stay longer.

In recent years, humanitarian parole has been employed as a quick fix to deal with the fallout from the many world crises that have occurred as the U.S. refugee system that was dismantled by the Trump administration was being built back up.

Now numerous groups are seeing their permission to remain in the United States expiring in coming months, including tens of thousands of Afghans.

That has led to intense anxiety for thousands of people who fled war in their homeland and don't know whether they'll be kicked out of the U.S. when their humanitarian parole status expires.

The uncertainty can also be difficult for the businesses that employ them and need to make sure their employees are properly authorized to remain in the country.

Ukraine and immigration have both been hot-button topics among Republican politicians who aren't enthusiastic about continuing aid to the war and have accused the Biden administration of not doing enough to control migration at the southern border.

But even in that toxic political environment, there's been little movement to force Ukrainians to return home, reflecting widespread acceptance that it's still too dangerous there.

The Homeland Security Department said the announcement specifically refers to Ukrainians who came into the U.S. on humanitarian parole status from Feb. 24, 2022, through April 25, 2022. They do not need to file any paperwork with the government to get the extension. The department will review cases of Ukrainians that fall in this category over the next four weeks to vet them for the extension, starting with those who came to the U.S. the earliest.

Many groups that work with people who come to the U.S. after being forcibly displaced from their countries had been advocating for the extension. In a statement the head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Krish O'Mara Vignarajah said the extension would provide relief to thousands of anxious Ukrainians.

"For this earliest-arrived group of Ukrainians, the continued legal right to live, work, and access resettlement assistance in the U.S. is absolutely crucial to their well-being," she said. The organization also called on the administration in the future to not wait until so close to the deadline to extend "critical humanitarian protections," and noted that many of the thousands of Afghans who came into the country on humanitarian parole will start seeing their protections expire this summer.

Before the White House announcement Monday, Ukraininas who had been granted entry into the United States expressed their anguish.

Liliia Lukianchuk, a Ukrainian mother of four, has applied for asylum with the help of Lutheran Social Services, but she and her husband have not gotten an answer. Their parole was set to expire April 16, and it is tied to her husband's mechanic job in Jacksonville, Florida, where they live. She fears that if they're sent back, her 17-year-old son will end up on the front lines as a solider.

"Of course, I'm worried because the worst-case scenario would be to be returned to Ukraine, but I have to be strong for my family," she said through an interpreter.

When U.S. officials at the U.S.-Mexico border stamped the Ukrainian passports of Mariia and her daughter, now 13, last April and gave them permission to stay for a year, she figured she would return home within months, well before her humanitarian parole was set to expire April 23.

Now with that year almost up and the war that caused them to flee still raging, she said last week, "The word 'worry' doesn't capture what I'm feeling," said Mariia, 46, who spoke through an interpreter and asked that only her first name be used over concerns that speaking publicly would hurt their immigration case. "This is something that frightens me, mainly because of my daughter and my daughter's future."

Belarus guerrillas tackle 'two-headed enemy'

Anti-Russian groups trying to aid Ukraine despite crackdown

Associated Press

Russian soldiers take part in drills in Belarus, which continues to host troops. **RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY PRESS SERVICE 2022**

After Russia invaded Ukraine, guerrillas from Belarus began carrying out acts of sabotage on their country's railways, including blowing up track equipment to paralyze the rails that Russian forces used to get troops and weapons into Ukraine.

In the most recent sabotage to make international headlines, they attacked a Russian warplane parked just outside the Belarusian capital.

"Belarusians will not allow the Russians to freely use our territory for the war with Ukraine, and we want to force them to leave," Anton, a retired Belarusian serviceman who joined a group of saboteurs, said in a phone interview.

"The Russians must understand on whose side the Belarusians are actually fighting," he said, speaking on the condition that his last name be withheld for security reasons.

More than a year after Russia used the territory of its neighbor and ally to invade Ukraine, Belarus continues to host Russian troops, as well as warplanes, missiles and other weapons. The Belarusian opposition condemns the cooperation, and a guerrilla movement sprang up to disrupt the Kremlin's operations, both on the ground and online.

Meanwhile, Belarus' authoritarian government is trying to crack down on saboteurs with threats of the death penalty and long prison terms.

Activists say the rail attacks have forced the Russian military to abandon the use of trains to send troops and materiel to Ukraine.

The retired serviceman is a member of the Association of Security Forces of Belarus, or BYPOL, a guerrilla group founded amid mass political protests in Belarus in 2020. Its core is made up of former military members.

During the first year of the war, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko realized that getting involved in the conflict "will cost him a lot and will ignite dangerous processes inside Belarus," said Anton Matolka, coordinator of the Belarusian military monitoring group Belaruski Hajun.

Last month, BYPOL claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a Russian warplane stationed near the Belarusian capital. The group said it used two armed drones to damage the Beriev A-50 parked at the Machulishchy Air Base near Minsk. Belarusian authorities have said they requested the early warning aircraft to monitor their border.

Lukashenko acknowledged the attack a week later, saying that the damage to the plane was insignificant, but admitting it had to be sent to Russia for repairs.

The iron-fisted leader also said the perpetrator of the attack was arrested along with more than 20 accomplices and that he has ties to Ukrainian security services.

Both BYPOL and Ukrainian authorities rejected allegations that Kyiv was involved. BYPOL leader Aliaksandr Azarau said the people who carried out the assault were able to leave Belarus safely.

"We are not familiar with the person Lukashenko talked about," he said.

The attack on the plane, which Azarau said was used to help Russia locate Ukrainian air defense systems, was "an attempt to blind Russian military aviation in Belarus."

He said the group is preparing other operations to free Belarus "from the Russian occupation" and to free Belarus from Lukashenko's regime.

"We have a two-headed enemy these days," said Azarau, who remains outside Belarus.

Former military officers in the BYPOL group work closely with the team of Belarus' exiled opposition leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who ran against Lukashenko in the 2020 presidential election that was widely seen as rigged.

The disputed vote results handed him his sixth term in office and triggered the largest protests in the country's history. In response, Lukashenko unleashed a brutal crackdown on demonstrators, accusing the opposition of plotting to overthrow the government. Tsikhanouskaya fled to Lithuania under pressure.

With the protests still simmering a year after the election, BYPOL created an underground network of anti-government activists dubbed Peramoha, or Victory. According to Azarau, the network has some 200,000 participants, two-thirds of them in Belarus.

"Lukashenko has something to be afraid of," Azarau said.

Belarusian guerrillas say they have carried out 17 major acts of sabotage on railways. The first took place two days after Russian troops rolled into Ukraine.

A month later, then-Ukrainian railways head Oleksandr Kamyshin said there "was no longer any railway traffic between Ukraine and Belarus," and thanked Belarusian guerrillas for it.

Another group of guerrillas operates in cyberspace.

Their coordinator, Yuliana Shametavets, said some 70 Belarusian IT specialists are hacking into Russian government databases and attacking websites of Russian and Belarusian state institutions.

"We're trying to contribute to Ukraine's victory as best we can," Shametavets said.

Last month, the cyber-guerrillas reported hacking a subsidiary of Russia's state media watchdog, Roskomnadzor. They said they were able to penetrate the subsidiary's inner network, download documents and emails, and share data showing how Russian authorities censor information about the war.

They also hacked into Belarus' state database containing information about border crossings and are now preparing a report on Ukrainian citizens who were recruited by Russia and went to meet with their handlers in Belarus.

In addition, the cyber-guerrillas help vet Belarusians who volunteer to join the Kastus Kalinouski regiment that fights alongside Kyiv's forces. Shametovets said they were able to identify four security operatives among the applicants.

Belarusian authorities have unleashed a crackdown on guerrillas.

Last May, Lukashenko signed off on introducing the death penalty for attempted terrorist acts. Last month, the Belarusian parliament also adopted the death penalty as punishment for high treason. Lukashenko signed the measure last week.

"Belarusian authorities are seriously scared by the scale of the guerrilla movement inside the country and don't know what to do with it, so they chose harsh repressions, intimidation and fear as the main tool," said Pavel Sapelka of the Viasna human rights group.

According to Viasna, over the past 12 months at least 1,575 Belarusians have been detained for their anti-war stance, and 56 have been convicted on various charges and sentenced to prison terms ranging from a year to 23 years.

Anton says he understands the risks.

On one of the railway attacks he worked with three associates who were each sentenced in November to more than 20 years in prison.

"It is hard to say who is in a more difficult position — a Ukrainian in a trench or a Belarusian on a stakeout," he said.

NEWS BRIEFING

Seeking payment, Ohio sues Norfolk Southern over train derailment

From news services

Ohio filed a lawsuit against railroad Norfolk Southern to make sure it pays for the cleanup and environmental damage caused by a fiery train derailment on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border last month, the state's attorney general said Tuesday.

The federal lawsuit also seeks to force the company to pay for groundwater and soil monitoring in the years ahead and economic losses in the village of East Palestine and surrounding areas, said Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost.

No one was hurt in the Feb. 3 derailment, but half of the roughly 5,000 residents of East Palestine had to evacuate for days when responders intentionally burned toxic chemicals in some of the derailed cars to prevent an uncontrolled explosion, leaving residents with lingering health concerns. Government officials say tests over the past month haven't found dangerous levels of chemicals in the air or water in the area.

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw apologized before Congress last week for the impact the derailment has had on the area, but he didn't make specific commitments to pay for long-term health and economic harm.

The railroad has promised more than $20 million so far to help the Ohio community recover while also announcing several voluntary safety upgrades.

Norfolk Southern said Tuesday in a response to the lawsuit that it was listening to concerns from the community and planning to take additional steps to deal with some of those.

The railroad is working on creating a long-term medical compensation fund, a way to provide protection for home sellers if their property loses value because of the derailment, and improving drinking water protections, it said in a statement.

The lawsuit also asks for the railroad to reimburse first responders and state agencies for the costs of dealing with the disaster.

How much money the state is seeking isn't known yet because the response is ongoing, but Yost made it clear the cost will be enormous.

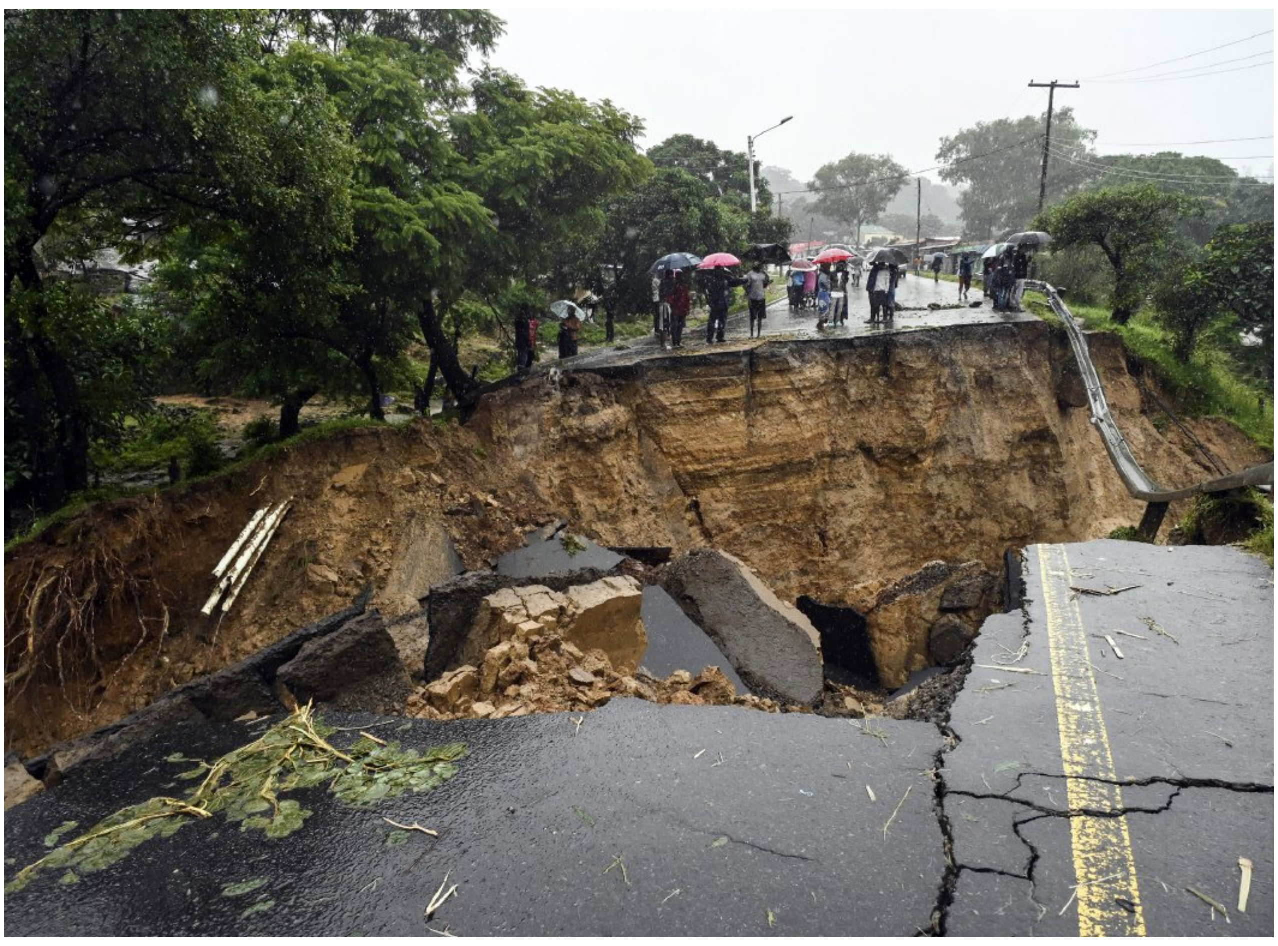
"This was an epic disaster. The cleanup is going to be expense, " he said.

China to reopen: China will reopen its borders to tourists and resume issuing all visas Wednesday as it tries to revive tourism and its economy following a three-year halt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

China is one of the last major countries to reopen its borders to tourists. The announcement Tuesday came after it declared a "decisive victory" over COVID-19 in February.

All types of visas will resume from Wednesday. Visa-free entry also will resume at destinations such as Hainan island as well as for cruise ships entering Shanghai that had no visa requirement before COVID-19.

Foreigners holding visas issued before March 28, 2020, that are still valid will be allowed to enter China. Visa-free entry will resume for foreigners entering Guangdong in southern China from Hong Kong and Macao. The notice didn't specify whether vaccination certificates or negative COVID-19 tests would be required.



Major damage bisects the road connecting the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe on Tuesday in Malawi following heavy rains caused by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. The unrelenting cyclone, which is currently battering southern Africa, has killed more than 200 people in Malawi and Mozambique since it struck the continent for a second time Saturday night. **THOKO CHIKONDI/AP**

Italy gay rights: Gay rights activists Tuesday denounced as homophobic moves by Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's far-right-led government to limit recognition of parental rights to the biological parent only in families with same-sex parents.

In a move that is expected to impact hundreds of families, the government has told the city of Milan to stop automatically recording both parents in same-sex couples on city registers.

Milan was the last major city to continue the practice that had been briefly adopted in Rome, Turin, Naples and elsewhere after Italy's high court in 2016 made it easier for gays to adopt a partner's biological child.

The piece of bureaucracy is key to recognizing parental rights for a range of everyday situations like authorizing medical treatment or participation in class outings.

The president of Rainbow Families, Alessia Crocini, charged that Rome's order to Milan exposed the government's homophobia. The government has issued no official statements on the move.

Weinstein retrial: Los Angeles prosecutors told a judge Tuesday that they will not retry Harvey Weinstein, who was convicted in December of the rape and sexual assault of one woman, on counts involving two others that left jurors deadlocked.

Deputy District Attorney Paul Thompson announced the decision to Superior Court Judge Lisa B. Lench at a hearing in downtown Los Angeles. The judge granted a defense motion to dismiss the charges and said Weinstein would be returned to New York, where he was convicted in a similar case.

Weinstein attorney Jacqueline Sparagna said he maintains his innocence of the charges.

NKorea missile launch: North Korea test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles Tuesday, a day after the United States and South Korea began military drills that Pyongyang views as an invasion rehearsal.

The missiles launched from the southwestern coastal town of Jangyon flew across North Korea before landing in the sea off its east coast, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. It said both missiles traveled about 385 miles.

The reported flight distances suggest the missiles target South Korea, which hosts about 28,000 U.S. troops. South Korea's military called the launches "a grave provocation" that undermines stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said Tuesday's launches don't pose an immediate threat to its allies. But it said the North's recent tests highlight the "destabilizing impact" of the North's unlawful weapons programs and that the U.S. security commitment to South Korea and Japan remains "ironclad."

Israel politics: Hundreds of Israeli writers, artists and intellectuals Tuesday called on Germany and Britain to cancel upcoming visits by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his plan to overhaul Israel's judicial system has put the country on a destructive course.

Netanyahu's coalition, a collection of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties, has barreled ahead with legislation that aims to weaken Israel's Supreme Court and give them control over the appointment of the nation's judges.

Tens of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets to protest in the past two months. Protests last week were so large that Netanyahu was forced to take a helicopter to the airport in order to catch a flight for an official visit to Italy.

In a letter addressed to the German and British ambassadors in Israel, some 1,000 Israeli figures said Tuesday that Israel is in the midst of the most extreme crisis in its history and that Netanyahu is trying to turn the country into a "theocratic dictatorship."

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ARTS & LIVING

Becca Khalil, from left, Ali Louis Bourzgui, Mattico David and Atra Asdou in Martin Yousif Zebari's "Layalina." **LIZ LAUREN PHOTOS**

REVIEW 'LAYALINA' ★★½

The strength of family bonds, from Baghdad to Skokie

By Chris Jones
Chicago Tribune

The first act of Martin Yousif Zebari's "Layalina" at the Goodman Theatre is set in Baghdad in March 2003, the month when then-President George W. Bush announced that U.S. forces had begun military operations in Iraq and just weeks before Iraqi civilians and U.S. soldiers pulled down a statue of Saddam Hussein in that city's Firdos Square. The second act is set in 2020 on Church Street in Skokie.

Both acts, though, take place in a comfortable home despite the turmoil of the world outside. In essence, Zebari, whose own family emigrated from Iraq to the U.S., has penned a multigenerational family drama that explores many of the traditional themes of the genre, including the rebellion of young people from their parents' traditional values and the slow acceptance of change by the crotchety oldsters. As an immigrant drama, it also explores the personal complexities of any forced diaspora, be they financial, organizational or just from immense loneliness. After a harrowing exit, the family finds themselves flung to Australia, the United Kingdom, and, yes, Skokie.

Waseem Alzer, from left, Ali Louis Bourzgui, Becca Khalil and Atra Asdou in Martin Yousif Zebari's "Layalina."

"Layalina," which is directed by Sivan Battat on a cool set from the designer casaboyce and is fabulously costumed by Dina El-Aziz, has much to recommend it: this first full production has vibrant characters, lots of funny family comedy, a delightful central performance from Becca Khalil as two very different characters, a generous piece of acting from Mattico David as the family patriarch and, above all for me, a rich sense of the closest of extended families, be they in Baghdad or Skokie. The show is very present and alive and the audience at Monday's opening responded accordingly. I sat there missing family members

Turn to 'Layalina', *Page 9*

LYRIC OPERA 2023-24 SEASON

Wagner, 'Cinderella' and an opera about a boxer

By Chris Jones
Chicago Tribune

Chicago's Lyric Opera announced the company's 2023-24 season Tuesday, billing the extensive slate as a "global tour of opera featuring a richly curated slate of musical events in six different languages."

At a press event, general director Anthony Freud said the new season keeps opera's "main pillars front and center" while also offering "fresh contemporary perspectives." He also said more commissioned operas are in Lyric's future and that Lyric was thinking more outside of the traditional subscription model and seeing its productions as "a series of activities," often grouping traditional staging with contrasting contemporary operas and aimed at pleasing traditional audiences while also attracting newcomers.

Enrique Mazzola has been Chicago's Lyric Opera's music director since the 2021-22 season and will open the 2023-24 season with "The Flying Dutchman," his first Wagner opera at the Lyric. **VICTOR HILITSKI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The renowned institution's 69th season, which has one less production than the 68th, opens with Richard Wagner's **"The Flying Dutchman"** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 7), conducted by music director Enrique Mazzola, who will lead his first Wagner opera at Lyric. Directed by Christopher Alden, the production stars Tomasz Konieczny in the title role, Tamara Wilson as Senta and Robert Watson in his Lyric debut as Erik.

The season continues with Gaetano Donizetti's comedic **"The Daughter of the Regiment"** (Nov. 4-25), featuring Lawrence Brownlee as Tonio and the Lyric debut of Lisette Oropesa as Marie. The Laurent Pelly production is directed by Christian Räth and conducted by Speranza Scappucci, both making their Lyric debuts.

In repertory with that production will be Leos Janáček's **"Jenůfa"** (Nov. 12-26), starring soprano Lise Davidsen in the title role and Nina Stemme as the Kostelnička. The production will be conducted by Jakub Hrůša, music director designate of London's Royal Opera House, and is to be directed by Claus Guth. Both will be making their Lyric debuts.

Rossini's **"Cinderella"** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 10, 2024) will feature the Lyric debut of Vasilisa Berzhanskaya as Angelina and Jack Swanson as Ramiro, alongside Alessandro Corbelli as Don Magnifico and Joshua Hopkins as Dandini. Conductor Yi-Chen Lin will make her Lyric debut, with Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's production to be restaged by Crystal Manich, also in her Lyric debut.

In repertory with Cinderella will be **"Champion"** (Jan. 27 to Feb. 11, 2024) by Terence Blanchard ("Fire Shut Up in My Bones") and librettist Michael Cristofer. The show is about the true story of Emile Griffith, a professional boxer from the U.S. Virgin Islands who in 1962 threw a fatal punch in the boxing ring after his opponent taunted

Turn to Lyric, *Page 9*

CELEBRITIES

Hanks triple threat at Razzie Awards

From news services

The Razzies awarded Tom Hanks, seen Feb. 3, the trophy for worst supporting actor for his "Elvis" role. **CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP**

The Golden Raspberry Awards have announced its 2023 winners, and for the first time, the Razzies awarded themselves.

The satirical awards show honoring the worst of the worst in cinema kicked off Friday by awarding Tom Hanks the worst supporting actor trophy for what IndieWire called his "deliciously awful ... Kentucky-fried gold member" performance in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis."

In the "worst screen combo" category, Hanks — paired with his "Latex-Laden Face (and Ludicrous Accent)" — scored another Razzie. The worst remake/rip-off/sequel award went to Disney's live-action "Pinocchio," also starring Hanks as Geppetto.

Sony Pictures' comic flick "Morbius" also led the wins, scoring two Golden Raspberry Awards. Its titular star, Jared Leto, won the dubious honor of worst actor for what the Irish Times described as "taking a silly role absurdly seriously." And his co-star Adria Arjona was named worst supporting actress.

According to a Trip to the Movies, Andrew Dominik's Marilyn Monroe biopic "Blonde" was "deplorable, misogynistic and exploitative," earning it the Razzie for worst screenplay. It also took home the big award for worst picture.

The Razzies caught a fair amount of flack for nominating "Firestarter" actor Ryan Kiera Armstrong, now 13, for worst actress. The Razzies committee publicly apologized, imposed age restrictions for worst performance nominees and replaced Armstrong's name with its own on the ballot.

"For nominating someone who should not have been considered — a blunder that was put through the blender and pulverized from one corner of the internet to the other and all media in between — instead of handing out a worst actress statuette this year, we're giving this Razzie, to the Razzies. ... Well, what can we say? We earned this Razzie," the group said in the winners announcement video.

Lohan announces pregnancy: Lindsay Lohan is expecting her first child.

The "Mean Girls" star announced her pregnancy Tuesday in an Instagram post, sharing an image of a baby onesie with "Coming soon..." written on it. The post was captioned "We are blessed and excited!"

Lohan married financier Bader Shammas in 2022, People magazine reported.

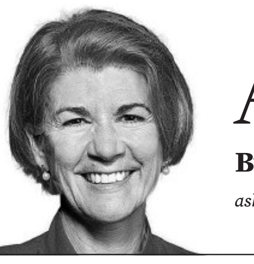
Lohan, 36, recently returned to acting, starring in Netflix's "Falling for Christmas" and its upcoming romantic comedy "Irish Wish."

TLC, Shaggy to tour together: Artists TLC and Shaggy have announced plans to embark on the Hot Summer Nights Tour 2023.

Kicking off June 1 in Alabama, the jaunt will feature performances from special guests En Vogue and Sean Kingston. The 26-city tour by the 1990s chart-toppers will include stops across the United States and Canada, and wrap in Alberta in July.

A presale for tickets began Tuesday, and a general sale will start Friday.

March 15 birthdays: Actor Judd Hirsch is 88. Bassist Phil Lesh is 83. Singer Mike Love is 82. Musician Sly Stone is 80. Singer Dee Snider is 68. Actor Park Overall is 66. Model Fabio Lanzoni is 64. Singer Bret Michaels is 60. Singer Mark McGrath is 55. Bassist Mark Hoppus is 51. Actor Eva Longoria is 48. Rapper will.i.am is 48.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Teacher needs to reread messages for clues

Dear Amy: Several years ago, my daughter had a preschool teacher she loved who was fired for, what seemed at the time, a dubious reason.

I related to her predicament, and I met up with her a couple of times in the aftermath so that my daughter could see her and to talk about the situation.

Since that time, she has contacted me sporadically, whenever she finds herself in a difficult emotional situation. We are not friends, and she only contacts me when she's having an emergency. Then it's urgent, at weird times and time-consuming. It's bizarre behavior.

She is married and has family and friends. I'm not even close enough with her to recommend that she see a therapist.

The most recent time this occurred, I hadn't heard from her in about a year. She asked if we could meet up and I told her that I was really busy preparing for some travel, and that it would have to be scheduled for another time. She ignored this and tried repeatedly to contact me while I was out of town.

I am not the type of person who would ever "ghost" someone, but I was never friends with this person in the first place, and she's ignoring my boundaries. Is it OK if I just ignore her?

— *Not a Therapist*

Dear Not: You don't mention the content of the contact this person is pestering you with. If she is emailing or texting asking for advice and you don't want to engage, you can respond, politely — "I'm sorry I can't help you with this. I hope you find some resolution!"

If she contacts you wanting to get together, and you've already told her that you aren't available, then she needs to reread through her previous messages and get a clue.

You've already invited her to reschedule, but you've decided to end the relationship instead. If she contacts you saying, "I think you're probably back from your travels, so can you get together?" You can respond: "Sorry, but I'll have to decline. Life is getting in the way."

After that, you might have to be more direct.

Dear Amy: I've been with "Bobby" for two years. We got married last year (very quietly), but haven't done the celebration part yet with family and friends. We are planning to hold it in four months.

My husband's sister hasn't congratulated us or given us anything like a card or gift. Maybe she will do these things at the celebration, but I'm not sure.

Do you think she has a problem with us getting married? Or do you think she has a problem with me?

— *Concerned Bride/Bride-to-Be*

Dear Concerned: Every time I shake my magic eight ball, the reply is, "Outlook uncertain."

The way you describe this relationship, you are obviously insecure about it. Perhaps you don't know your husband's sister well or you've had limited or negative interactions.

My suggestions are pointed toward trying to establish a positive relationship moving forward.

Consider asking her advice regarding an aspect of the celebration planning. If appropriate, you might offer her a role in it.

If she responds to your bids rudely, coldly or not at all — then you should assume that she has a problem either with you, her brother or the larger world around her.

If you've done nothing to inspire her behavior, then don't take it personally!

I realize this is easy for me to say and very hard for you to do, but if you are able to use this experience to acquire the extremely important skill of not taking things personally, then I'd say that this would be your sister-in-law's lasting and valuable wedding gift to you.

Dear Amy: "Underappreciated" related the pain and pressure of having grandparents who openly favored two cousins over him. Well, I was the favorite grandchild of all my grandparents' grandchildren, and I have to report that their openness about this was hard on all of us.

To this day, I feel guilty — even though it wasn't my fault — and it affected my relationship with my cousins.

— *Favored and Guilty*

Dear Favored: Thank you for noting the longer-term impact of favoritism. I wonder if you might alter the outcome by addressing this with your cousins, now.

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Platt believes 'Parade' 'piece for right in this very moment'

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

Ben Platt stars as Leo Frank in "Parade." **DKC/O&M**

There's so much darkness awaiting Ben Platt in his new Broadway role that he has countered with a dash of brightness.

"I painted my dressing room pink so that it's a very bright and warm and joyful place to be, so that I can leave what happens on the stage on the stage," he says.

Platt deserves all the joy he can grab while playing the doomed lead antihero in the musical "Parade," adapted from a true story that took place in Atlanta just before World War I.

He plays Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-born Jewish factory manager falsely accused of murdering a young girl. He is tried and convicted, has his death sentence commuted but then is lynched by a Southern mob who dislikes his religion and Northern values.

"It's really a human story about how people — because of the traumas of their past — can't escape the prejudice of their present," says the show's director, Michael Arden.

The musical is being revived on Broadway just as the nation endures another wave of antisemitism, which has brought darkness even to the theater's front door. The show's first preview was marred by a few neo-Nazi protesters outside.

That has only proven to Platt and the rest of the "Parade" team that bringing this musical back in front of an audience is the right thing to do in the face of bigotry and bullying.

"I think both in terms of specifically antisemitism and in terms of just the horrors of social media and online mob mentality, it feels all too contemporary," Platt says. "I think everybody could feel very palpably that this was the piece for right in this very moment and that there was really a reason to be doing it."

This is Platt's first return to Broadway since his star-making turn in "Dear Evan Hansen," which earned him a Tony and a Grammy and propelled his career to TV shows such as "The Politician" and a record deal. The new musical opens March 16.

Platt calls "Parade" a "hidden gem" in musical theater and grew up listening to its songs. It was mostly well-received by critics in 1998 when it first arrived — and later won Tonys for best book and score — but closed within a few months, despite a story by "Driving Miss Daisy" writer Alfred Uhry and music and lyrics by multiple Tony winner Jason Robert Brown. Platt says it was ahead of its time.

"I think maybe people just weren't ready to hear it at that point," Platt says. "There's a lot of gray in the show, and it's also a piece that holds racism and antisemitism in the same conversation and highlights that they are both products, particularly in America, of the same system of white supremacy."

Behind the legal drama, there is a second — the story of two people, Frank and his wife, Lucille, whose relationship gets stronger as their lives get more difficult. Micaela Diamond stars here as Lucille, and it is the first time Jewish actors have led a professional production of "Parade" of this scale.

"I'm hopeful that this will be an opportunity for those who didn't already appreciate it, to find it and for it to get some of the due that it maybe should have gotten in the first place," Platt says.

What viewers will find is a complex portrayal of Frank, a fussy, often unpleasant man who dislikes the South and who complains about the food when he is first thrown in jail. That challenge attracted Platt.

"There's some moral challenge and ambiguity," says Platt. "I think it's an important message when you're representing anyone who has been oppressed or victimized, let alone a real person, to say that just because somebody isn't perfect and entirely virtuous, it doesn't mean that they aren't deserving of justice and truth."

Ali Louis Bourzgui in Martin Yousif Zebari's "Layalina." **LIZ LAUREN**

'Layalina'

from Page 8

far away, which indicates the strength of the bonds in the show.

But the structure of the piece needs a whole lot more work. Act 1 unspools quite successfully as we see the young generation (played by Waseem Alzer, Ali Louis Bourzgui and Khalil) head into danger even as their elders (Atra Asdou and David) worry about getting out of the country.

But in Act 2, a lot of that tension dissipates and the play loses the clarity of its narrative arc. Part of the issue is that the second act is much too long, given that we can sense where things are going, but it's also that the stakes just don't rise enough, certainly as compared with what happened prior to intermission.

The Black Lives Matter protests of 2020 smartly figure in, and the play begins to draw a parallel with what happened in Baghdad but it seems to drop that idea before fulfillment, and it felt to me like the writer had not yet figured out exactly what he wants to say there. The other issue is that given how the show takes place in Skokie, the action lacks the detail of everyday life: the audience loved any local references but there were few and they felt nonspecific. The play goes on to explore identity as the younger folk explore gender and sexuality in vibrant ways, but here again, the conflicts with parents could do to be sharper and more incisive.

You can tell how much Zebari (who uses he/they pronouns) loves their family from the writing and that ongoing openheartedness is one of this writer's great strengths. Now they just have to work more on what could be a most compelling and moving story.

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic.
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When: Through April 2
Where: The Goodman's Owen Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
Running time: 2 hours, 20 minutes
Tickets: $15-$50 at 312-443-3800 and goodmantheatre.org

Lyric

from Page 8

him about his sexuality. Eric Owens will play the older Emile, while Justin Austin will play Young Emile. Whitney Morrison will play Emelda Griffith, Emile's mother. Mazzola will conduct a coproduction with the Metropolitan Opera, directed by James Robinson.

Cristofer also wrote the play "Man in the Ring" about Griffith, which had its world premiere at Chicago's Court Theatre in 2016.

Lyric's season continues with Francesca Zambello's production of Verdi's famed **"Aida"** (March 9 to April 7, 2024), conducted by Mazzola and starring Michelle Bradley and Russell Thomas, both of whom appeared in last season's "Tosca." Jamie Barton plays Amneris. The production will feature contemporary designs by RETNA, also a muralist, and it will be choreographed by Jessica Lang.

During that run, Mazzola also will lead two performances of Mozart's **"Requiem"** (March 22-24) featuring the Lyric Opera Chorus and Orchestra and soloists to be announced. And Broadway star **Audra McDonald** will sing at the Lyric's Season Opening Gala on Oct 6. A spring musical for 2024 is expected but has yet to be announced.

REVIEW 'A DOLL'S HOUSE'

It's all in your head

By Chris Jones
New York Daily News

Okieriete Onaodowan and Jessica Chastain in "A Doll's House" at The Hudson Theatre in New York. **COURTESY**

NEW YORK — Experiencing the fascinating new revival of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House," which reduces the iconic proto-feminist drama to its barest thematic essentials, is not unlike listening to a podcast. For anyone interested in Broadway trends, here is a remarkable example of how the rise of Audible and AirPods — and the huge popularity of stories playing in your ear — has made spectacle not only inessential but maybe even an unnecessary risk. Even on *Broadway*, which made its bones on frills and feathers.

In fact, you could close your eyes for much of this show, which stars Jessica Chastain and Arian Moayed (Stewy on "Succession") and still grasp most of the ideas from the adapter, Amy Herzog, and the British director Jamie Lloyd. Only at the surprise ending, and the final dramatic punch is not the famous slam of the door, does that not apply.

The actors wear microphones inches from their lips, allowing the show to be even more conversational than actual conversation. Actors are dressed in shades of black and there is no physical business whatsoever: it doesn't matter if we're talking letters *ex machina* or shorn wedding rings, the action of this famously naturalistic play is merely described verbally. You are asked to see it in your mind's eye.

Actors hardly move; Chastain's Nora is seated for most of the play as a turntable brings along her husband, her flirtatious old friend (Dr. Rank, played by Chicago actor and Gift Theatre co-founder Michael Patrick Thornton), the nanny who cares for her children (Anne-Marie, played by Tasha Lawrence) and the two characters who are disrupting Nora and Torvald's hollow marriage, Krogstad (Okieriete Onaodowan) and Kristine Linde (Jesmille Darbouze).

Chastain, a formidable actress of stage and screen, is being asked to perform with the intimacy of a movie close-up but also live at the huge Hudson Theatre, a most interesting fusion. It's the same with everyone: Onaodowan and Thornton's performances are almost entirely driven by their voices.

The point? To remove the unnecessary clutter, I assume, and the trappings of the original location (Scandinavia) and period (1879). This show, which has no intermission, is not a deconstruction in the common-these-days sense of critiquing old material while also trading on its popularity. Lloyd is not going after Ibsen or this canonical play in that sense; rather, he clearly wants to allow its words to float through time, maybe to get the audience to reflect on the pitiful level of support they might find in their own relationships or, given how the plot turns on old crimes of forging signatures, ponder the presence of hypocrisy in societies past and present. In "A Doll's House," cornered men squirm like scared rats in a trap. This production makes the point that you don't need to see much to know.

The strengths of the show? Depth of intimacy. There is something very arresting about hearing these famous old lines given this kind of immediacy. The cast is made up of highly skilled and experienced actors, and it's really and truly something to hear how well all of them handle the need for dramatic tension to build in their mouths, even if their bodies often seem to writhe against their own director's constraints. The piece is not boring: it has weight and power and gravitas. And, at times with Chastain, Nora's mental pain (and Herzog's deft adaptation focuses strongly on the leading character's mental health) overflows to the actress' tear-stained face.

If you are a fan of Chastain's work, this is not something to miss, if only to watch how she builds outward from inside a theatrical, and marital, box.

These kinds of shows always beg the valid question of whether audiences dropping Broadway bucks are happy with so little to see, albeit here plenty to feel and hear. Sometimes directors seeking to peel back more and more layers of a dramatic character's onion, ever in search of the primal, go too far for the regular folks paying their bills. There are only so many stories; how they have been framed over the years actually matters. Clutter can matter; it lets audiences find their own way without holding a director's hands.

But while I don't think this show would have pleased an audience as much a decade ago, cultural delivery systems have changed. And this one, about a hitherto complacent woman facing a crisis and taking charge of her destiny for the first time, lands right in your ear.

Through June 10 at Hudson Theatre, 141 W. 44th St., New York; adollshousebroadway.com

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic. cjones5@chicagotribune.com

Tech bro answers Hollywood's call for villain

Industry has located richest resource of film antagonists since Soviet-era Russia

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press

Edward Norton stars as Miles Bron, an eccentric tech billionaire, in Rian Johnson's "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery." **NETFLIX**

"A toast to the disrupters," Edward Norton's tech billionaire says in Rian Johnson's Oscar-nominated film "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery."

And why not a toast? The recent Academy Awards didn't give a prize for best villain, but if they did, Miles Bron would win it in a walk. (With apologies to the cloud of "Nope.") He is an immediately recognizable type we've grown well-acquainted with: a visionary (or so everyone says), a social media narcissist, a self-styled disrupter who talks a lot about "breaking stuff."

Miles Bron is just the latest in a long line of Hollywood's favorite villain: the tech bro. Looking north to Silicon Valley, the movie industry has found perhaps its richest resource of big-screen antagonists since Soviet-era Russia.

Great movie villains don't come along often. The Oscar best picture nominee "Top Gun: Maverick," like its predecessor, was content to battle with a faceless enemy of unspecified nationality. Why antagonize international ticket buyers when Tom Cruise versus whomever works just fine?

But in recent years, the tech bro has proliferated on movie screens as Hollywood's go-to bad guy. It's a rise that has mirrored mounting fears over technology's expanding reach into our lives and increasing skepticism for the not always altruistic motives of the men — and it is mostly men — who control today's digital empires.

We've had the devious Biosyn Genetics CEO (Campbell Scott) in "Jurassic World Dominion," a franchise dedicated to the peril of tech overreach; Chris Hemsworth's biotech overlord in "Spiderhead"; and Mark Rylance's maybe-Earth-destroying tech guru in 2021's "Don't Look Up." We've had Jesse Eisenberg, who also played Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg in 2010's "The Social Network," as a tech bro-styled Lex Luthor in 2016's "Batman v. Superman"; Harry Melling's pharmaceutical entrepreneur in 2020's "The Old Guard"; Taika Waititi's rule-breaking video game mogul in 2021's "Free Guy"; Oscar Isaac's search engine CEO in 2014's "Ex Machina"; and the critical portrait of the Apple co-founder in 2015's "Steve Jobs."

Kids' movies, too, regularly channel parental anxieties about technology's impact on children. In 2021's "The Mitchells vs. the Machines," a newly launched AI brings about a robot apocalypse. "Ron's Gone Wrong" (2021) also used a robot metaphor for smartphone addiction.

And TV series have just as aggressively rushed to dramatize Big Tech blunders. Recent entries include Uber's Travis Kalanick in Showtime's "Super Pumped," Theranos' Elizabeth Holmes in Hulu's "The Dropout," and WeWork's Adam and Rebekah Neumann in Apple TV+'s "We Crashed."

Some of these portrayals you could chalk up to Hollywood jealousy over the emergence of another California epicenter of innovation. But those worlds merged long ago. Many of the companies that released these movies are disrupters, themselves — none more than "Glass Onion" distributor Netflix. The streamer was cajoled into releasing Johnson's sequel more widely in theaters than any previous Netflix release. Estimates suggested the film collected some $15 million over opening weekend, the old-fashioned way, but Netflix executives have said they don't plan to make a habit of theatrical rollouts.

And the distrust goes deeper than any Hollywood-Silicon Valley rivalry. A recent Quinnipiac poll found that 70% of Americans think social media companies do more harm than good.

As characters, tech bros — hoodie-wearing descendants of the mad scientist — have formed an archetype: Masters of the universe whose hubris leads to catastrophe, social media savants who can't manage their personal relationships. Whether their visions of the future pan out or not, we end up living in their world, either way. They're villains who see themselves as heroes.

"Glass Onion," which was Oscar nominated for best adapted screenplay, presents a new escalation in tech mogul mockery. Norton's eminently punchable CEO, with a name so nearly "Bro," is enormously rich, powerful and, considering that he's working on a volatile new energy source, dangerous. But Bron is also, as Daniel Craig's Benoit Blanc eventually deduces, an idiot. "A vainglorious buffoon," Blanc says.

Even though Johnson wrote "Glass Onion" well before Elon Musk's Twitter takeover, the movie's release seemed almost preternaturally timed to coincide with it. The Tesla and SpaceX chief executive was only one of Johnson's real-world inspirations, though some took Bron as a direct Musk parody.

Musk will soon enough get his own movie. The Oscar-winning documentarian Alex Gibney recently announced he was several months into work on "Musk," which producers promise will offer a "definitive and unvarnished examination" of the tech entrepreneur.

At the same time as the tech bro's supervillainy supremacy has emerged, some movies have sought not to lampoon Big Tech but to imbibe some of the digital world's infinite expanse. Phil Lord, who with Christopher Miller has produced "The Mitchells vs. the Machines" and "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," says the internet has profoundly influenced their approach to film.

"We, legacy media, are responding in maybe subconscious ways to new media," says Lord. "We're all just trying to figure out how to live in the new world. It's changing people's behavior. It changes the way we find and experience love. It changes the way we live. Of course, the stories we tell and how we tell them are going to change as well and reflect that. 'Into the Spider-Verse' certainly reflects having a lot of content from every era in your brain all at the same time."

The best picture winner at the Oscars, "Everything Everywhere All at Once," too, is reflective of our multiscreen, media-bombarded lives. Writer-directors Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, whose film won seven Oscars in all, say they wanted to channel the confusion and heartache of living in the everything-everywhere existence that tech moguls like Miles Bron helped create.

"The reason why we made the movie is because that's what modern life feels like," says Kwan.

So even though Miles Bron didn't go home with an Academy Award, he still won, in a way. It's his world. We're all just living in it.

What to watch WEDNESDAY

March 15, 2023

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Ted Lasso

Apple TV+ ■ Season Premiere

In the 12-episode third season of the hit comedy, the newly promoted AFC Richmond faces ridicule as media predictions widely peg them as last in the Premier League, and Nate (Nick Mohammed), now hailed as the "wonder kid," has gone to work for Rupert (Anthony Head) at West Ham United. In the wake of Nate's contentious departure from Richmond, Roy Kent (Brett Goldstein) steps up as assistant coach, alongside Beard (Brendan Hunt). Meanwhile, Ted (Jason Sudeikis) deals with pressures at work and continues to wrestle with his own personal issues back home, Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham) is focused on defeating Rupert, and Keeley (Juno Temple) navigates being the boss of her own PR agency. New episodes drop Wednesdays.

Turning the Tables With Robin Roberts

Disney+ ■ Season Premiere

Host Robin Roberts returns for a second season of her series that features intimate conversations with multiple generations of Hollywood's most inspiring women. Featured this season are Sheryl Lee Ralph, Chrissy Metz, Chloe Kim, Marsai Martin, Hayley Kiyoko, Kelly Osbourne, Yaya DaCosta, Rita Wilson, Brooke Shields and Dionne Warwick. All episodes are available today.

'Ted Lasso'

COLIN HUTTON

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament: First Four

truTV, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Live

The 2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament field of 64 is set following tonight's First Four games in Dayton, Ohio.

NHL Hockey

TNT, beginning at 6 p.m. Live

The Colorado Avalanche visit Toronto to take on the Maple Leafs, and the Minnesota Wild head to St. Louis to duel with the Blues.

The Flash

The CW, 7 p.m.

In "The Good, the Bad and the Lucky," Barry (Grant Gustin) and Iris (Candice Patton) prepare for their new life, and Cecile (Danielle Nicolet) investigates a string of unfortunate events.

The Goldbergs

ABC, 7:30 p.m.

In "A Flyers Path to Victory," the Philadelphia Flyers have made it to the Stanley Cup Finals, prompting Barry (Troy Gentile) to implement superstitious protocols that the family must follow.

Trafficked With Mariana van Zeller

Nat Geo, 8 p.m.

Cryptocurrencies have gone mainstream, minting billionaires around the globe. But this get-rich-quick fever, paired with a lack of government oversight and regulation, has created the perfect opportunity for scammers. In this episode, "Crypto Scams," host Mariana van Zeller embeds within a crew of crypto "rug-pull" scammers, who show her how they make millions of dollars in mere weeks.

Not Dead Yet

ABC, 8:30 p.m.

In "Not Out of the Game Yet," Nell's (Gina Rodriguez) father comes to visit, while Lexi (Lauren Ash) conducts the employees' yearly performance review.

True Lies

CBS, 9 p.m.

In the new episode "Separate Pairs," Harry and Helen (Steve Howey and Ginger Gonzaga) go undercover as billionaires when Omega Sector gets an opportunity to bring down a weapons dealer.

Grown-ish

Freeform, 9:30 p.m. ■ Season Finale

In the final episode of the season, "Cash in Cash Out," Junior (Marcus Scribner) debates telling Annika (Justine Skye) how he feels.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

'Peter Rabbit'

SONY PICTURES

Peter Rabbit (2018, Children) James Corden, Fayssal Bazzi **FXM, 4 p.m.**

My Daughter's Deadly Roommates (2023, Suspense) Lily Brody, Cassidy Edwards **LMN, 5 p.m.**

Rambo: Last Blood (2019, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Paz Vega **AMC, 5 p.m.**

Easy A (2010, Comedy) Emma Stone, Penn Badgley **E!, 5:30 p.m.**

Despicable Me 2 (2013, Children) Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig **Nick, 6 p.m.**

Feeling Butterflies (2022, Romance-comedy) Kayla Wallace, Kevin McGarry **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

Secret Society of Lies (2023, Suspense) Kristen Vaganos, Luke Charles Stafford **LMN, 7 p.m.**

True Lies (1994, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Never Been Kissed (1999, Romance-comedy) Drew Barrymore, David Arquette **E!, 7:30 p.m.**

Beverly Hills Cop III (1994, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Judge Reinhold **VH1, 8:30 p.m.**

What Happened to My Sister? (2022, Suspense) Lauryn Speights, Heather Harris **LMN, 9 p.m.**

Mr. & Mrs. Smith (2005, Action) Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie **AMC, 10 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

31 Days of Oscar: 'Animal Stories'

TCM, Beginning at 7 p.m.

Lions, horses and dogs, oh my! Turner Classic Movies' 31 Days of Oscar gets a little wild this evening with a lineup of five Academy Award-nominated and/or -winning films that prominently feature animals: 1979's **The Black Stallion (pictured),** which was nominated for two Oscars, including Best Supporting Actor (Mickey Rooney), and received a Special Achievement Award for its sound editing (Alan Splet); **Born Free** (1966), which won both of its nominations, for Best Original Score (John Barry) and Original Song ("Born Free," by Barry and Don Black); **Lassie Come Home** (1943), nominated for its color cinematography by Leonard Smith; **National Velvet** (1944), which had five nominations and won two: Best Actress (Anne Revere) and Editing (Robert Kern); and **Sounder** (1972), which earned Cicely Tyson and Paul Winfield the only Best Actress and Actor nominations of their careers and was also nominated for Best Picture and Adapted Screenplay (Lonne Elder III).

UA / PHOTOFEST

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

TCM	★★★ Grey Gardens ('75, Documentary) Former socialites become recluses in decrepit mansion.		★★★ La Promesse ('96, Drama) (Jérér teenager befriends a widowed illegal i			
TLC	My Knees N	Skin/Peeling N		My Baby Weighs N		Body/Shak
TNT	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. N				In NBA N	★★★ Shar
TRAVEL	Delicious	Delicious	Bizarre Foods/Zimmern	Best Bars	Best Bars	Delicious
TRU	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Carbonaro	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Jokers	Imp. Joker

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'Last of Us' adaptation connects with both game's fans, newbies

By Karena Phan
Associated Press

Pedro Pascal as Joel and Bella Ramsey as Ellie are seen in the season finale of "The Last of Us." **HBO**

In the HBO series "The Last of Us," a fungal infection has taken over Earth, rendering the U.S. an apocalyptic landscape protagonists Joel and Ellie need to traverse. Fans unfamiliar with the video game, from which the series was adapted, might assume this is just another zombie show packed with action and gore.

However, the story and the characters have subverted expectations and received praise from all corners. "The Last of Us," which recently concluded its first season, has not only won over gamers with high expectations, but also people who don't play video games. The series premiere drew 4.7 million viewers in the U.S., based on Nielsen and HBO data, making for HBO's second largest debut, behind "House of the Dragon." HBO said the finale drew a series high of 8.2 million people.

"No one could have anticipated this, this reaction and how positive it's been and how broad it's been in its reach," said Neil Druckmann, Naughty Dog co-president and the creator and writer of the video game, which saw its first installment released a decade ago.

"And to see a whole bunch of new people connecting with these characters ... and hearing how they interpret the material and what they like or not like, it's just been really fascinating to me," said Druckmann, who was also the co-creator, writer and an executive producer on the show.

The show explores relatable themes such as coming of age, grief, finding hope and parenthood. It's not all about zombies — the Infected create the conflict, but aren't the only antagonists, for there are worse and scarier things lurking in this apocalypse. The emotional plot and complex characters have resonated with fans outside the traditional genres the series fits into.

"I'm actually kind of afraid of horror and zombie things and whatnot. Normally, I wouldn't watch that type of show," said Victoria Jin, 24.

Jin never played the game but started watching the show with friends; what made her stay invested was the third episode, which explores the relationship between survivalist Bill (Nick Offerman) and his partner Frank (Murray Bartlett). The standout episode told a story of love and hope in a grim world.

"It's the drama, there's a lot of heartbreak, there's human emotion and relationships, and that definitely is what keeps me coming back to it," Jin said. "And just like, come on, Pedro Pascal. I feel like that should be enough of a draw on itself."

The performances haven't gone unnoticed by fans, who are already speculating about Emmy nominations for both Pascal, who plays Joel, and Bella Ramsey, who plays Ellie.

The show's plot is simple, but the key to its success is complex characters, said avid gamer, writer and filmmaker Michael Tucker.

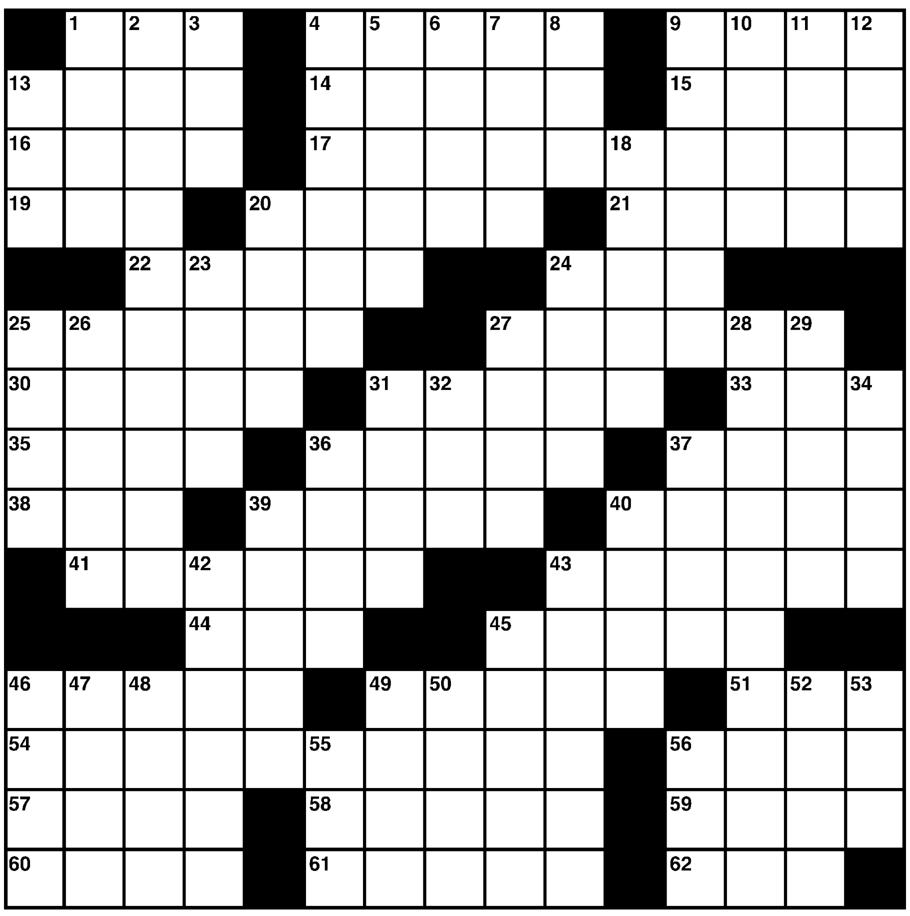
"I think, because it's focused on those character arcs and relationships, and how the story world puts pressure to force those forward, those things are really accessible and universal," said Tucker.

Creating a successful adaptation isn't as simple as re-creating the game shot-for-shot. But having the game's creators involved in the project was something that made "The Last of Us" special. While Druckmann played a big role in the series, voice actors from the video game acted on the show as well — including Troy Baker and Ashley Johnson, who voiced Joel and Ellie in the game. Creators need to have an open mind on what stays and what changes, Druckmann said.

What added to the success of the show was the partnership between him and showrunner Craig Mazin. In initial conversations, Druckmann could see that Mazin was a fan of "The Last of Us" and took the story seriously.

"He's played multiple times and thought about these characters, the relationships and what they mean. And clearly it had a profound impact on him," Druckmann said.

Crossword



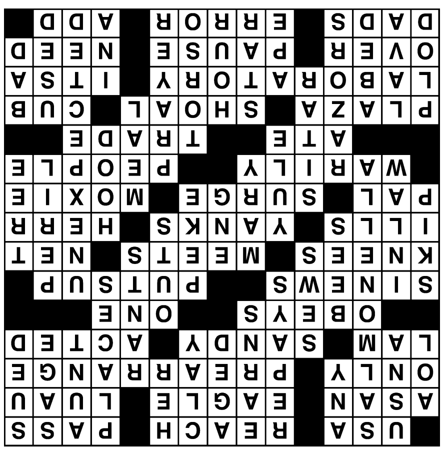
By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

3/15/23

ACROSS
1 Nation with the most attorneys: abbr.
4 Get in touch with
9 Football maneuver
13 As slippery __ eel
14 Bird of prey
15 Hawaiian tour staple
16 __ child; kid with no sibs
17 Set up beforehand
19 On the __; fleeing
20 Koufax or Duncan
21 __ up; misbehaved
22 Follows orders
24 Wee hour
25 Strong tissues
27 Hangs, as a poster
30 Places for patellas
31 Track-and-field events
33 Hair covering
35 Problems
36 Pulls hard
37 Munich man
38 Buddy
39 Sudden increase
40 Chutzpah
41 In a cautious way
43 Magazine title
44 Got full
45 Swap
46 Public square
49 Boating obstacle
51 Little bear
54 Scientist's room
56 "__ jungle out there!"
57 Take __; assume control
58 TV remote button
59 In __; poor
60 Papas
61 Mistake
62 Tally up

DOWN
1 Annapolis acad.
2 Food-poisoning bacteria
3 __ day now; pretty soon
4 Returns a favor
5 Deserves
6 Matured
7 Potter's material
8 Pronoun
9 Comes in second
10 Mom's sister
11 Cooking herb
12 Hauled into court
13 Email provider
18 Angry speeches
20 Uses a Singer
23 Queens, drones & workers
24 Time-__; game breaks
25 Bypass
26 Acquired relative
27 Lap dog
28 Surprising
29 Hazard
31 Most common girl's name in the 1950s
32 Nigeria's official lang.
34 Pine or palm
36 Christmas
37 Parka feature
39 Stringed instrument
40 Repast
42 Gillette products
43 Hail Mary, for one
45 Upper body
46 Trudge
47 Mount St. Helens' output
48 All tucked in
49 Tiny night light
50 Period of time
52 Secondhand
53 Awful
55 Imitate
56 "Time __ Bottle"; Jim Croce song

Solutions



Horoscopes

Today's birthday (March 15): Resources multiply this year. Prioritize daily acts of self-care, exercise and rest. Clarify winter miscommunications, before positive cash flow gushes this spring. Summer travel or research obstacles motivate alternate solutions, leading to a busy, lucrative autumn for your family.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 9. Advance a professional goal. Discuss the potential with trusted friends and allies. Listen to your heart and intuition.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Stay connected with friends and allies, in person or through social networks. Find useful and practical applications for what you're learning.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Begin another educational phase. Collaborate to build and grow. Pull together to harvest and conserve a windfall. Strategize and envision perfection.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 9. Talk about dreams, passions and possibilities. Romance arises in conversation. Contribute love and kindness and it returns multiplied.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. What you're learning energizes your work and health. Get out and move your body. Physical action gets results. Prioritize basics. Pamper yourself.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 7. Relax and enjoy simple pleasures with your inner circle. Talk about what you love. Invent enticing possibilities together. Discuss dreams, desires and wishes.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 7. Apply your talents and creativity to home improvement. It's not too early for spring cleaning. Discover forgotten treasures and heirlooms.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. You have something to say, so say it. Capture your unique perspective. Talk about dreams, visions and possibilities. Create works of passion and beauty.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Have faith in your own income-producing capabilities, creativity and imagination. Wheel and deal. Dreams seem within reach. Stash resources. Maintain a positive balance.

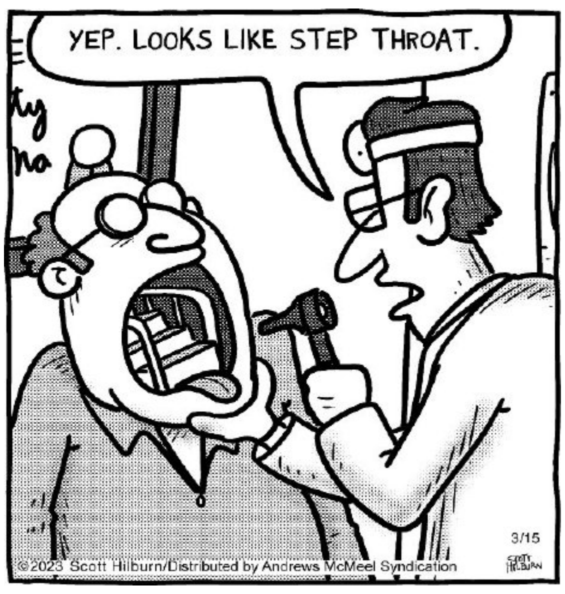
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 9. Take action to advance a personal dream. Use your power and confidence for good. Research options. Discover exciting opportunities in unexpected places. Listen to intuition.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Peaceful settings inspire productivity and imagination. Consider long-term implications of your plans. Find strength in nature, spirituality, art, music and meditation. Rest and recharge.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 9. Connect with neighbors, friends and the larger community. Teamwork gets results. Lead by example. Advance your shared vision. Together, you can move mountains.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn


YEP. LOOKS LIKE STEP THROAT.
3/15
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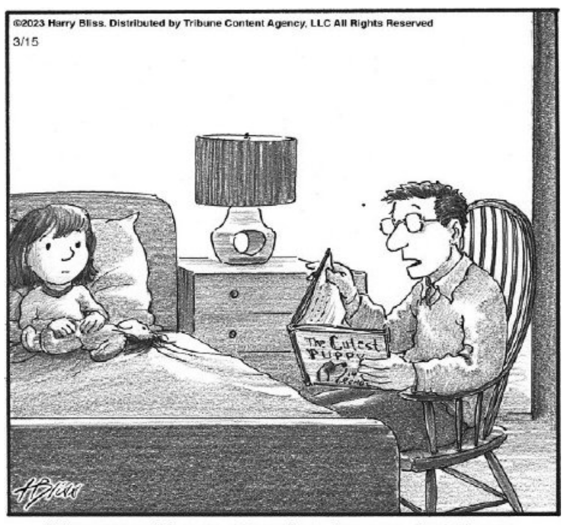
Bliss By Harry Bliss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3/15
The Cutest Puppy

"I'm sorry I keep stopping, honey, but these illustrations stink."

Bridge

East-West vulnerable, North deals

North
♠ K 7 3
♥ 9 4
♦ A J 2
♣ A K Q 8 3

West
♠ 8
♥ A Q 10 7 6
♦ 9 4
♣ J 9 7 6 4

East
♠ A 10 6 5
♥ K J 5 2
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ 2

South
♠ Q J 9 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ 10 5

Heather Dhondy was a mainstay of the British women's team for many years when they competed as one country. They compete as four different countries these days, but she is still a fixture on the English team. She was South in today's deal.

The actual auction is unknown to us so we offer the plausible auction above. The defense started with the ace of hearts and a heart to the king. East continued with a third heart, giving a ruff-sluff. Dhondy discarded a club from her hand and ruffed in dummy. She led dummy's king of spades, won by East with the ace, and East led another heart. Dhondy shed her last club and ruffed with dummy's last trump.

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass

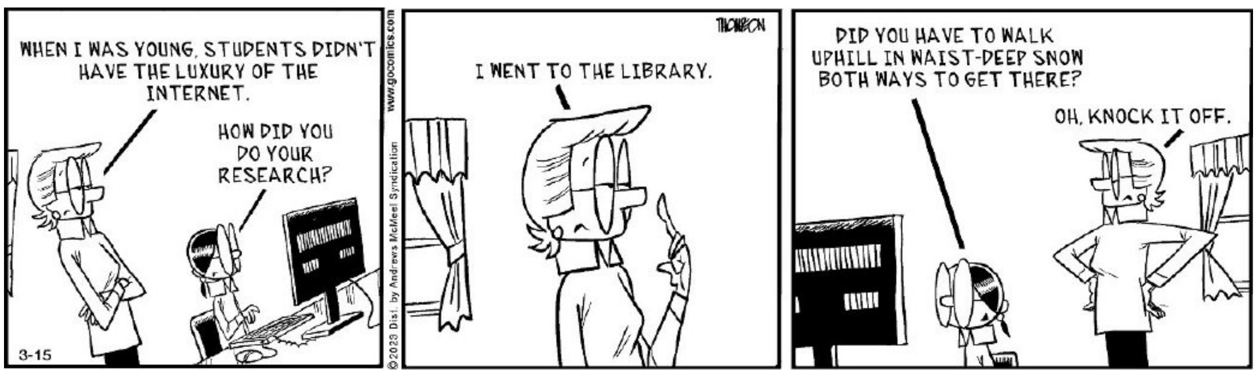
Opening lead: Ace of ♥

Dhondy asked herself why East kept giving her ruff-sluffs? She suspected that there might be a problem in the trump suit. She led a low club from dummy and ruffed it in hand, thus reducing her trump length. She led the queen of spades and confirmed the bad trump split.

Thanks to her foresight in ruffing a club, she could easily handle the poor split. She led a diamond to dummy and started cashing high clubs. East could ruff whenever she wished, but Dhondy would over-ruff, draw the last trump, and cash her diamonds. Should East never ruff, Dhondy would discard all her diamonds and pick up East's trumps with a classic trump coup on the last two tricks. Nicely done!

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

Grand Avenue By Mike Thompson


WHEN I WAS YOUNG, STUDENTS DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF THE INTERNET.
HOW DID YOU DO YOUR RESEARCH?
I WENT TO THE LIBRARY.
DID YOU HAVE TO WALK UPHILL IN WAIST-DEEP SNOW BOTH WAYS TO GET THERE?
OH, KNOCK IT OFF.
3-15
THOMPSON
www.gocomics.com
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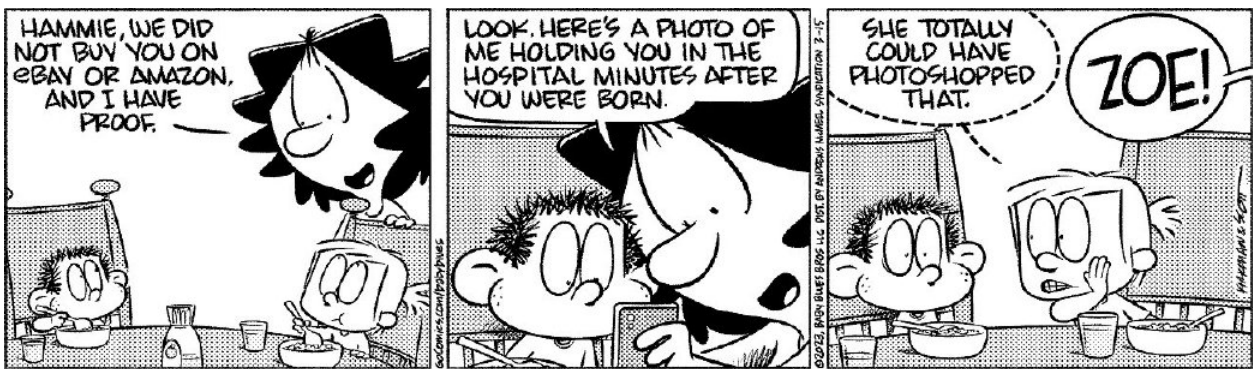
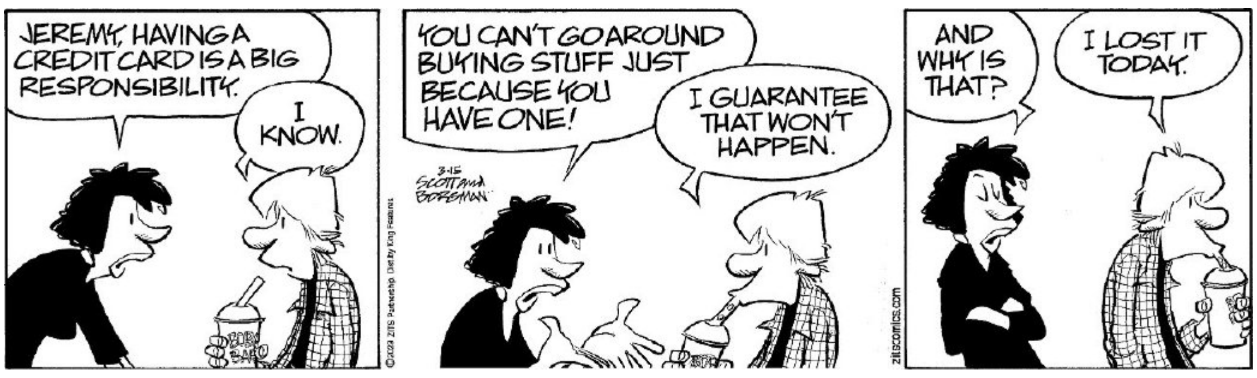
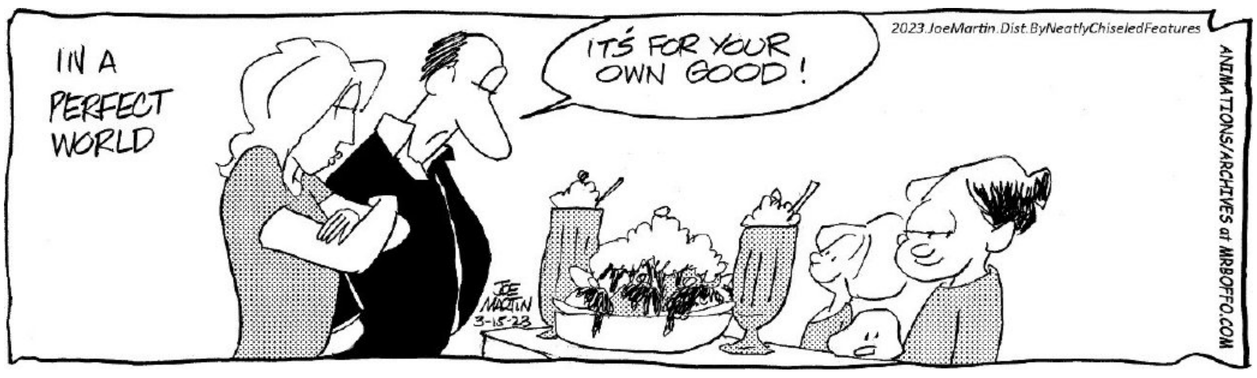
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott


HAMMIE, WE DID NOT BUY YOU ON eBAY OR AMAZON, AND I HAVE PROOF.
LOOK. HERE'S A PHOTO OF ME HOLDING YOU IN THE HOSPITAL MINUTES AFTER YOU WERE BORN.
SHE TOTALLY COULD HAVE PHOTOSHOPPED THAT.
ZOE!
gocomics.com/babyblues
©2023, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION 3-15
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman


JEREMY, HAVING A CREDIT CARD IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY.
I KNOW.
YOU CAN'T GO AROUND BUYING STUFF JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE ONE!
I GUARANTEE THAT WON'T HAPPEN.
AND WHY IS THAT?
I LOST IT TODAY.
3-15 SCOTT AND BORGMAN
©2023 ZITS Partnership Dist. by King Features
zitscomics.com

Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin


IN A PERFECT WORLD
IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
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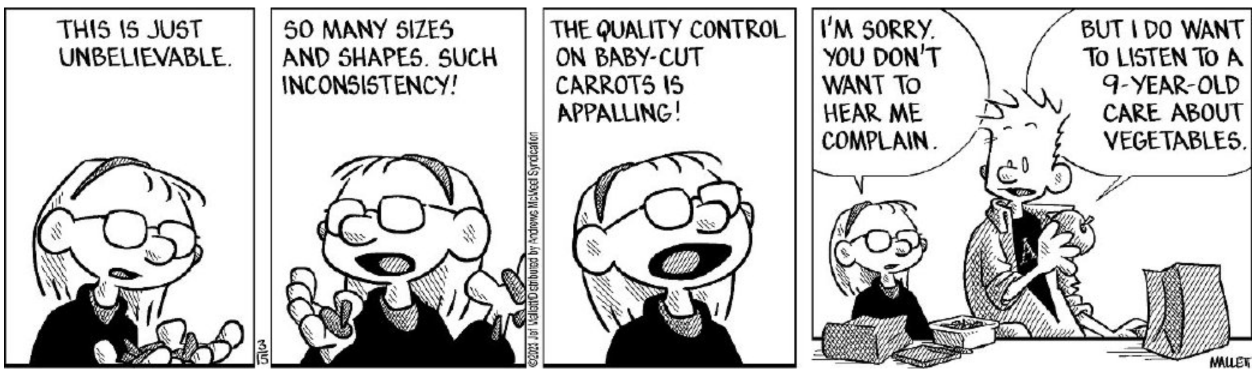
ANIMATIONS/ARCHIVES at MRBOFFO.COM
JOE MARTIN 3-15-23

Frazz By Jef Mallett


THIS IS JUST UNBELIEVABLE.
SO MANY SIZES AND SHAPES. SUCH INCONSISTENCY!
THE QUALITY CONTROL ON BABY-CUT CARROTS IS APPALLING!
I'M SORRY. YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ME COMPLAIN.
BUT I DO WANT TO LISTEN TO A 9-YEAR-OLD CARE ABOUT VEGETABLES.
3/15
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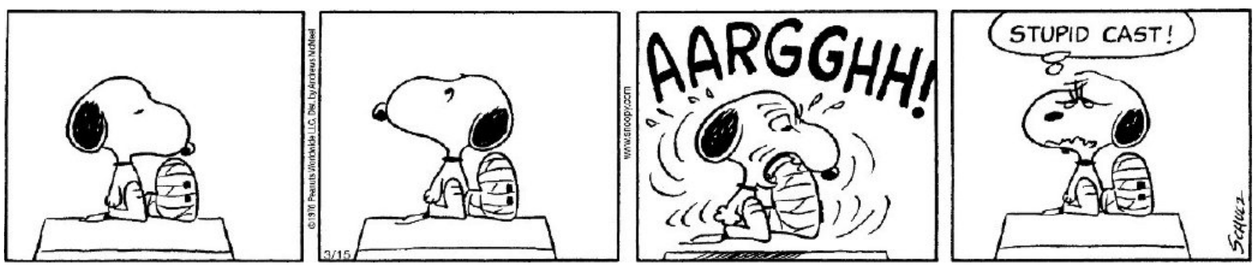
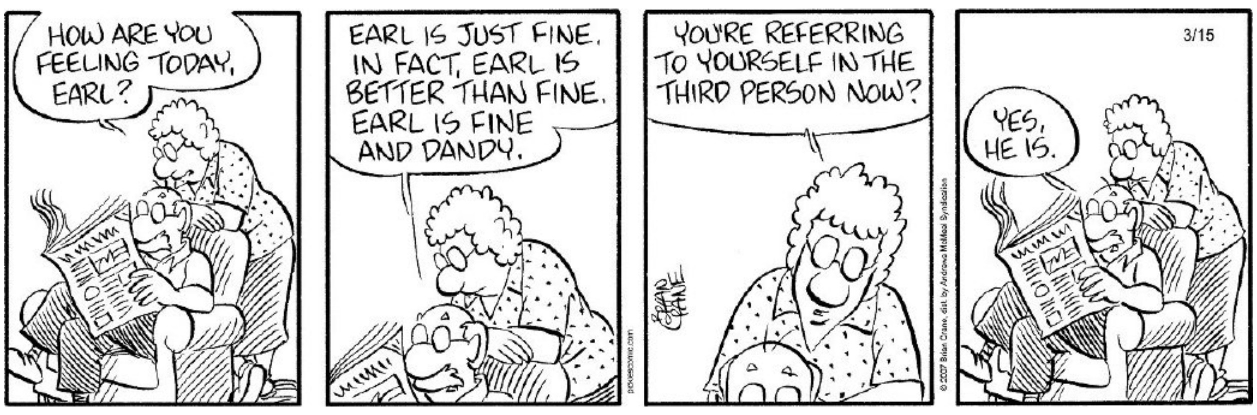
MALLETT

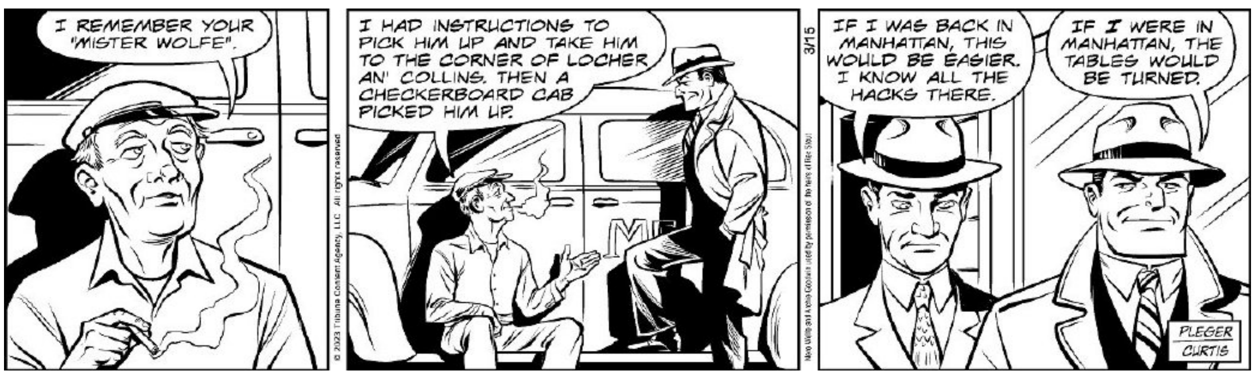
Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz


AARGGHH!
STUPID CAST!
©1970 Peanuts Worldwide LLC, Dist. by Andrews McMeel
3/15
www.snoopy.com
SCHULZ

Pickles By Brian Crane


HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY, EARL?
EARL IS JUST FINE. IN FACT, EARL IS BETTER THAN FINE. EARL IS FINE AND DANDY.
YOU'RE REFERRING TO YOURSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON NOW?
YES, HE IS.
3/15
picklescomic.com
BRIAN CRANE
©2007 Brian Crane, dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Dick Tracy By Joe Staton and Mike Curtis


I REMEMBER YOUR "MISTER WOLFE".
I HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO PICK HIM UP AND TAKE HIM TO THE CORNER OF LOCHER AN' COLLINS. THEN A CHECKERBOARD CAB PICKED HIM UP.
IF I WAS BACK IN MANHATTAN, THIS WOULD BE EASIER. I KNOW ALL THE HACKS THERE.
IF I WERE IN MANHATTAN, THE TABLES WOULD BE TURNED.
3/15
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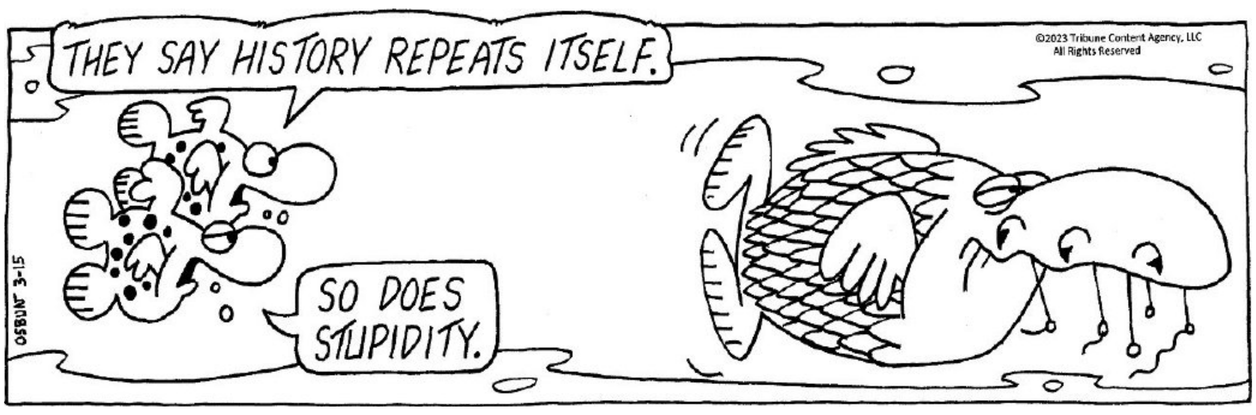
PLEGER CURTIS

Animal Crackers By Mike Osbun


THEY SAY HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.
SO DOES STUPIDITY.
OSBUN 3-15
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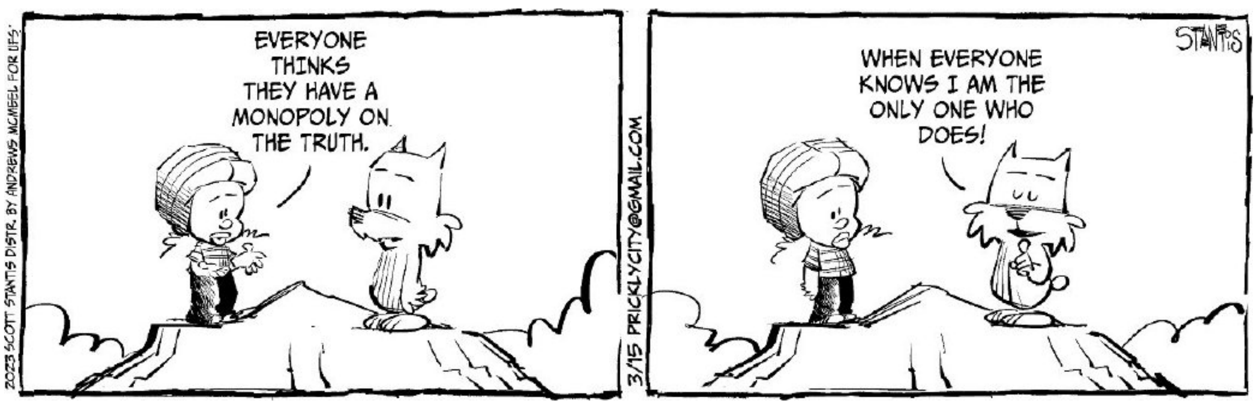
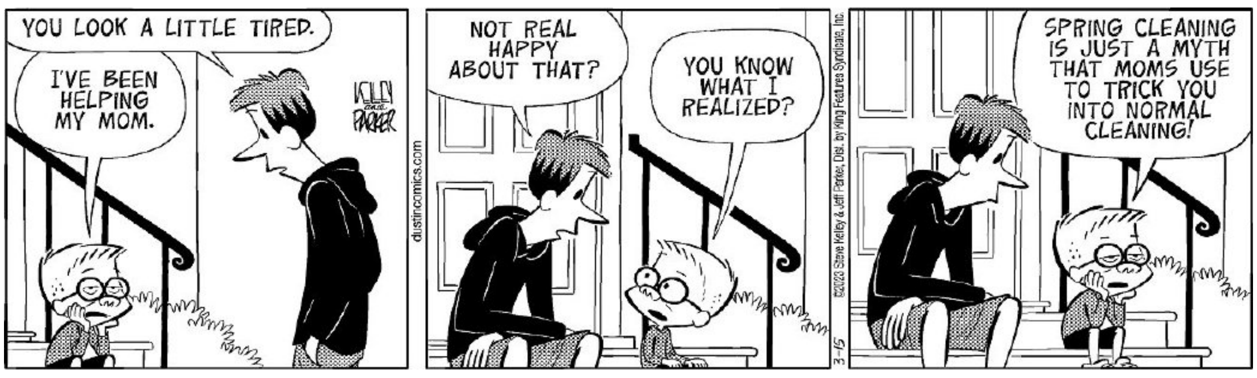
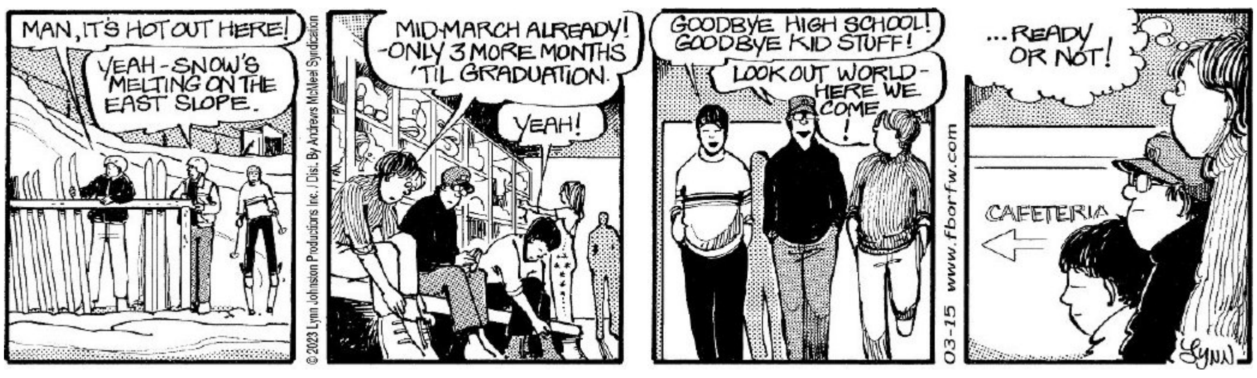
Prickly City By Scott Stantis


EVERYONE THINKS THEY HAVE A MONOPOLY ON THE TRUTH.
WHEN EVERYONE KNOWS I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES!
STANTIS
3/15 PRICKLYCITY@GMAIL.COM
2023 SCOTT STANTIS DISTR. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL FOR UFS

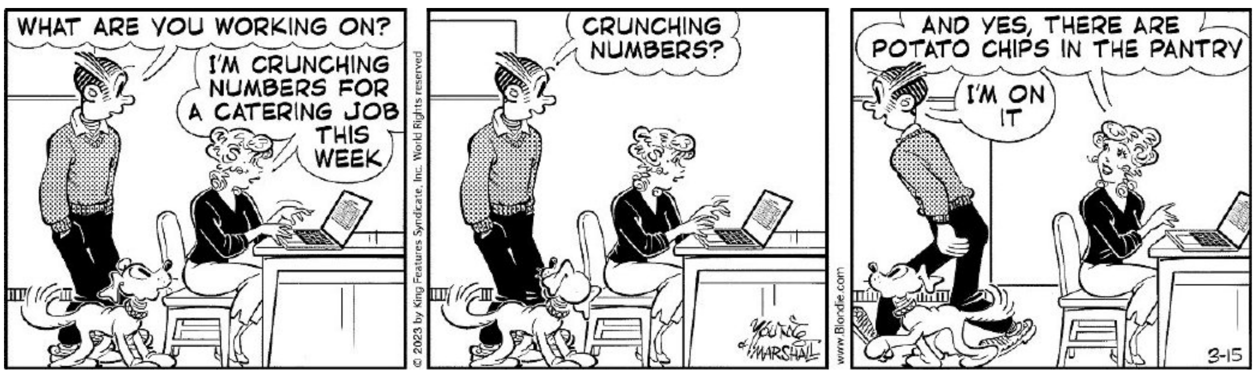
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker


YOU LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.
I'VE BEEN HELPING MY MOM.
KELLEY and PARKER
dustincomics.com
NOT REAL HAPPY ABOUT THAT?
YOU KNOW WHAT I REALIZED?
©2023 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
3-15
SPRING CLEANING IS JUST A MYTH THAT MOMS USE TO TRICK YOU INTO NORMAL CLEANING!

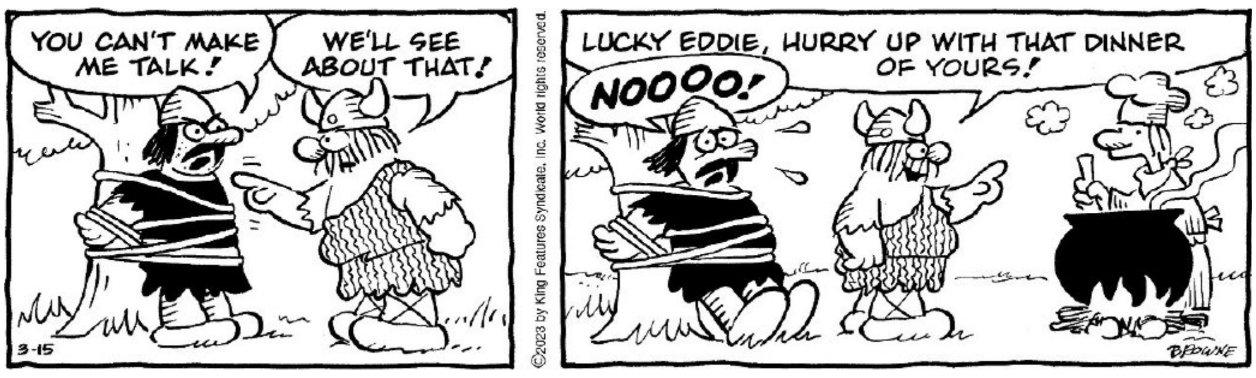
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston


MAN, IT'S HOT OUT HERE!
YEAH - SNOW'S MELTING ON THE EAST SLOPE.
© 2023 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc. / Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication
MID-MARCH ALREADY! - ONLY 3 MORE MONTHS 'TIL GRADUATION.
YEAH!
GOODBYE HIGH SCHOOL! GOODBYE KID STUFF!
LOOK OUT WORLD - HERE WE COME!
03-15 www.fborfw.com
...READY OR NOT!
CAFETERIA
Lynn

Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
I'M CRUNCHING NUMBERS FOR A CATERING JOB THIS WEEK
© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
CRUNCHING NUMBERS?
YOUNG & MARSHALL
www.Blondie.com
AND YES, THERE ARE POTATO CHIPS IN THE PANTRY
I'M ON IT
3-15

Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne


YOU CAN'T MAKE ME TALK!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
3-15
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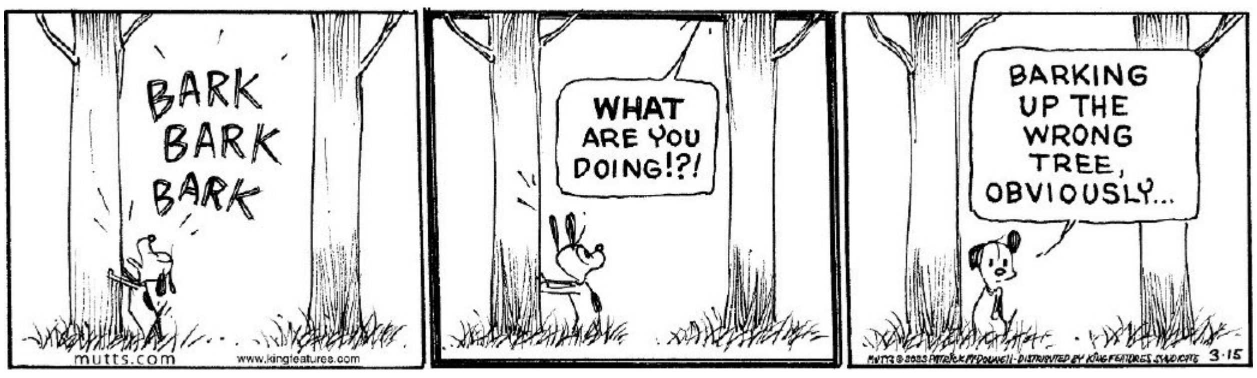
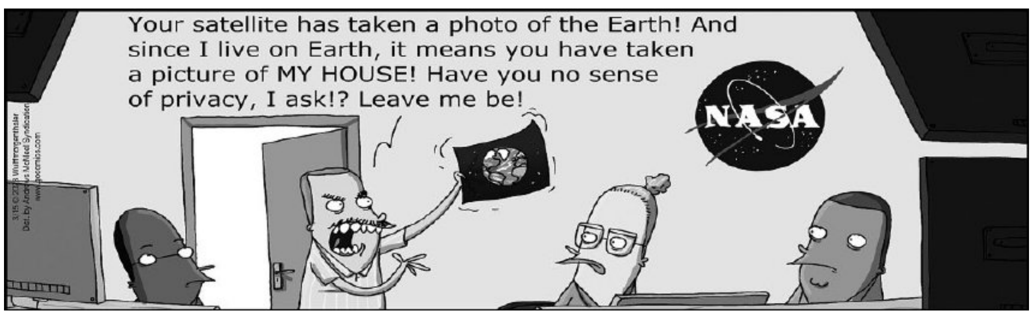
LUCKY EDDIE, HURRY UP WITH THAT DINNER OF YOURS!
NOOOO!
BROWNE

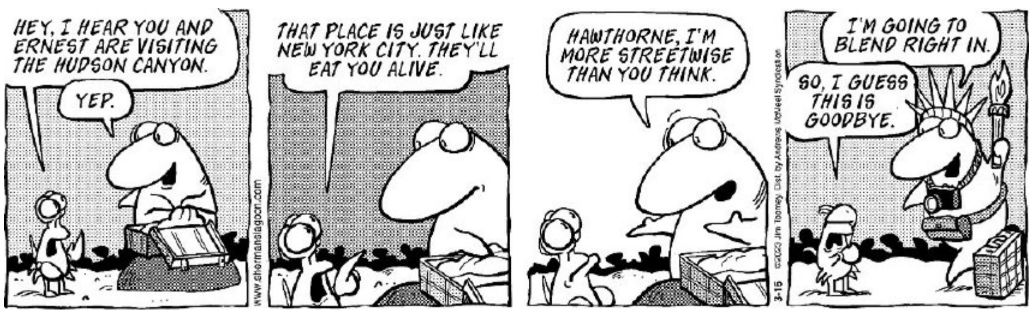
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell


BARK BARK BARK
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?!
BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE, OBVIOUSLY...
MUTTS © 2023 PATRICK McDONNELL - DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 3-15

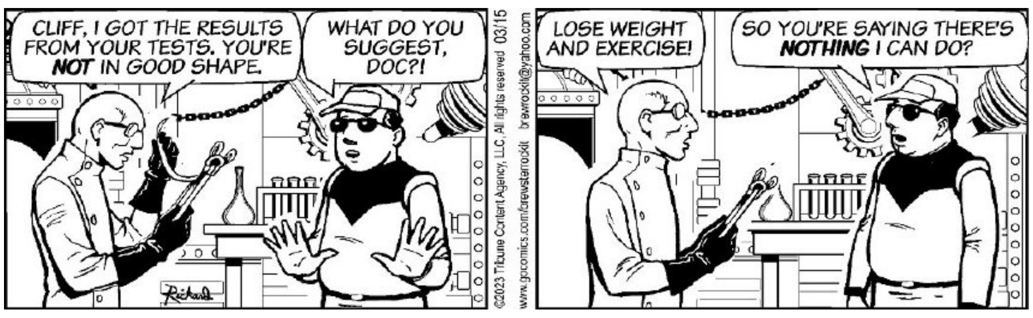
WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler


Your satellite has taken a photo of the Earth! And since I live on Earth, it means you have taken a picture of MY HOUSE! Have you no sense of privacy, I ask!? Leave me be!
NASA
3-15 © 2023 Wulffmorgenthaler Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication www.gocomics.com

Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey


HEY, I HEAR YOU AND ERNEST ARE VISITING THE HUDSON CANYON.
YEP.
www.shermanslagoon.com
THAT PLACE IS JUST LIKE NEW YORK CITY. THEY'LL EAT YOU ALIVE.
HAWTHORNE, I'M MORE STREETWISE THAN YOU THINK.
3-15 ©2023 Jim Toomey Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
I'M GOING TO BLEND RIGHT IN.
SO, I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE.

Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard


CLIFF, I GOT THE RESULTS FROM YOUR TESTS. YOU'RE NOT IN GOOD SHAPE.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, DOC?!
Rickard
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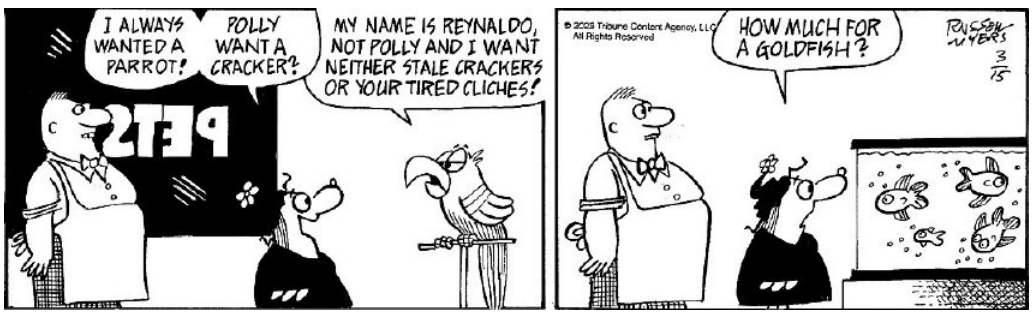
www.gocomics.com/brewsterrockit brewrockit@yahoo.com
LOSE WEIGHT AND EXERCISE!
SO YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO?

Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers


I ALWAYS WANTED A PARROT!
POLLY WANT A CRACKER?
PETS
MY NAME IS REYNALDO, NOT POLLY AND I WANT NEITHER STALE CRACKERS OR YOUR TIRED CLICHES!
© 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved
HOW MUCH FOR A GOLDFISH?
RUSSELL MYERS 3/15

Trivia Bits

Which city is the capital of Jamaica?

A) Havana
B) Kingston
B) Montego Bay
D) Negril

Tuesday's answer: Pelican pouches sometimes turn blue during mating season.

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Jumble Crossword

1		2		3 ○	○	■
	■	○	■		■	4
5 ○		○			■	
	■		■		■	
	■	6		○		
○	■	○	■	○	■	○
■	7 ○					

3-15-23

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Serious crime	NYLFEO
5. ____ line	NGOAC
6. Perfect	LEADI
7. ____ Christie	HAATAG

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Determinant	FOARCT
2. Strong desire	LIONNGG
3. Closest	EENTSAR
4. Flowering plant	LAAAEZ

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

CLUE: This actor wore a toupee in most of his films.

BONUS ○○○○ ○○○○○○○

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ANSWERS: 1A-Felony 5A-Conga 6A-Ideal 7A-Agatha 1D-Factor 2D-Longing 3D-Nearest 4D-Azalea B-Sean Connery

By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1234

3/15

		5				6		
7			6		9		1	
1								4
		7	2		4			
			8					
	2		9		1	8		
4								3
	8		1		3			9
6		1				2		

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Tuesday's solutions

7	4	5	6	2	3	1	8	9
6	2	8	1	5	9	4	3	7
1	9	3	4	8	7	5	6	2
9	5	1	7	4	6	8	2	3
2	7	4	8	3	1	9	5	6
8	3	6	5	9	2	7	4	1
4	1	9	2	6	5	3	7	8
5	6	7	3	1	8	2	9	4
3	8	2	9	7	4	6	1	5

By The Mepham Group

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Jumble

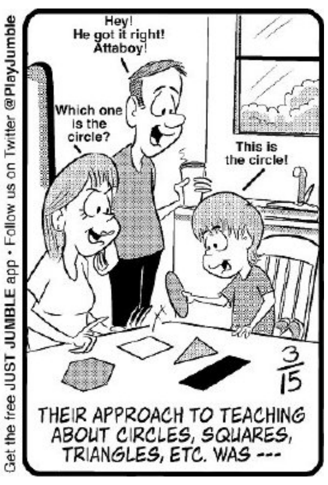
Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

GURSH
○○□□○

WITAA
□□○○○

VORNEP
○□□□□○

KREADR
□○□○○□


Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
Hey! He got it right! Attaboy!
Which one is the circle?
This is the circle!
3/15
THEIR APPROACH TO TEACHING ABOUT CIRCLES, SQUARES, TRIANGLES, ETC. WAS ---

Answer here

○○○○○○ ○○○○○

Tuesday's answers

Jumbles: EAGLE JOKER UNPACK PUPPET
Answer: When the clouds parted allowing them to see the summit, they got a — PEEK AT THE PEAK

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2023 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

3/15

1	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14						■	15			■	16			
17						■	18			19				
■	■	20				21	■	22			■	23		
24	25				■	26	27		■	28	29			
30			■	31	32				■	33				
34			■	35				■	■	36			■	■
37			■	38				39	40		■	41	42	43
■	■	44	45		■	■	46				■	47		
48	49				■	50					■	51		
52					■	53			■	54	55			
56			■	57	58		■	59	60				■	■
61			62				63	■	64				65	66
67				■	68			■	69					
70				■	71			■	72					

Across

1 Meal
7 Near mist?
10 Old PCs
14 Syria's most populous city
15 "Blessed __ the peacemakers"
16 Large number
17 Accepts a driver's offer
18 Cell boundary
20 Quick kisses
22 Corvallis sch.
23 Windy City commuter org.
24 The ones here
26 Comedian Margaret
28 "Sweet Love" singer Anita
30 __ Lingus
31 Bangkok residents
33 Data units
34 "And there you have it!"
35 Suspend
36 Inouye Airport arrival gift
37 __ Lanka
38 Trisected
41 "You get the idea" abbr.
44 Religious woman
46 Glossary entry
47 Long, long __
48 Remove one's username from, on social media
50 Comedian Anne featured in Jerry Stiller's memoir "Married to Laughter"
51 Aromatic tree
52 Areas that may be irritated by shirt tags
53 Sculling need
54 __ macchiato
56 K-12 support gp.
57 Volodymyr Zelenskyy's country: Abbr.
59 Conductor Zubin
61 Devices for reproducing signatures
64 __ star
67 Old PC screens
68 Narrow waterway
69 Get-up-and-go
70 Florida vacation destination
71 Stop on the road
72 __ tickets

Down

1 "Yay, team!"
2 "Xanadu" gp.
3 "Peanuts" girl who calls Charlie Brown "Chuck"
4 Cathedral niches
5 Add interest
6 Honky-__
7 Mom, dad, sibs, etc.
8 Cookies for breakfast?
9 Tiara twinklers
10 Syr. neighbor
11 Formal social events
12 Protégé
13 Takes an oath
19 Party device filled with liquid soap
21 Barely enough
24 Bar bills
25 Pick up
27 British afternoon tradition, and what this puzzle's four longest answers literally have?
29 "Yes," on Talk Like a Pirate Day
32 "The Summer I Turned Pretty" novelist Jenny
39 Break a peace treaty, perhaps
40 Make a mistake
42 Pre-weekend shout
43 Center
45 Dubai's fed.
48 Prepare to stay a couple nights, say
49 Inherent character
50 Informal greeting
55 Clueless
58 "The Americans" star Russell
60 "¿De dónde __?"
62 WWII spy org.
63 Word with Jose or Juan
65 Private aid prog.
66 OB-__: med. specialty

Tuesday's solution

B	L	I	P	S	■	A	S	T	I	R	■	T	I	P	S
A	E	S	O	P	■	S	H	O	N	E	■	E	M	I	T
Y	E	L	L	O	W	A	R	R	O	W	■	S	P	A	R
■	S	A	L	O	N	■	I	N	I	■	■	T	U	N	A
■	■	■	U	R	B	A	N	■	L	O	W	B	L	O	W
B	U	N	T	■	A	L	K	A	■	S	H	E	S	■	■
O	B	O	E	■	■	T	A	P	■	S	E	D	E	R	S
B	E	T	■	S	N	O	W	P	L	O	W	■	B	U	S
A	R	E	T	H	A	■	A	L	I	■	■	G	U	N	N
■	■	T	H	A	N	■	Y	E	L	P	■	R	Y	E	S
K	N	O	W	H	O	W	■	S	A	R	G	E	■	■	■
R	O	S	A	■	■	A	P	T	■	E	L	M	S	T	■
U	S	E	R	■	T	H	R	O	W	P	I	L	L	O	W
M	E	L	T	■	M	O	O	R	E	■	D	I	E	T	S
P	D	F	S	■	C	O	M	E	T	■	E	N	D	O	W

By Prasanna Keshava. Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis.

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BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

	6						4	
		9	3			7		6
		8			5	1	9	
		5		9	2			
	3						2	
			4	6		9		
	5	3	9			2		
2		1			4	5		
	7						3	

Level: 1 **2** 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

5	6	7	2	1	9	8	4	3
1	2	9	3	4	8	7	5	6
3	4	8	6	7	5	1	9	2
6	8	5	1	9	2	3	7	4
9	3	4	8	5	7	6	2	1
7	1	2	4	6	3	9	8	5
4	5	3	9	8	6	2	1	7
2	9	1	7	3	4	5	6	8
8	7	6	5	2	1	4	3	9

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6/20/18

BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

M	L	U	Q
A	O	B	E
N	T	A	E
O	I	R	C

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12-21-20

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

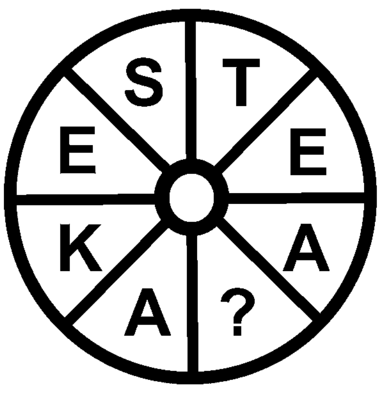
Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FOUR CANADIAN PROVINCES in the grid of letters.

QUEBEC ALBERTA ONTARIO MANITOBA

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

TEACAKES

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Famous septuagenarians

250

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

L C H B A R R Y G I B B M A M R D E
A R E D N O W E I V E T S L J C F N
G K A T E J A C K S O N G I A H S R
A B N H E D H A R R I S L C Y P R U
E J L I N E C Z L B F G J E L K P O
S E Z L R O Y J T I M R I C E A O B
N F D L I L Q A O I A A F O N L P S
E F I A I E E T R E P M T O O G Y O
V B A R V C N O O R P S N P P O G Y
E R N Y U F V M J M U E K E D R G Z
T I A C C Y X N A Y W M S R E E I Z
S D R L G N I T S S L A L C A S W O
W G O I Q V I B L C L L T L I M O G
Y E S N N A H K N A R M I S I X U N
B S S T E P H E N K I N G B O B B H
E L T O N J O H N Z P J P K H N O H
N O T N I L C L L I B R L S T I N E
N O L A N R Y A N B O B G E L D O F

AL GORE
ALICE COOPER
BARRY GIBB
BILL CLINTON
BILL MURRAY
BILLY JOEL
BOB GELDOF
CHER
DIANA ROSS
ED HARRIS
ELTON JOHN
HILLARY CLINTON
IGGY POP
IMRAN KHAN
JAY LENO
JEFF BRIDGES
JOE PESCI
KATE JACKSON
LIAM NEESON
MARK SPITZ
NOLAN RYAN
OZZY OSBOURNE
R L STINE
SAM NEILL
STEPHEN KING
STEVEN SEAGAL
STEVIE WONDER
STING
TIM RICE
TOM WATSON

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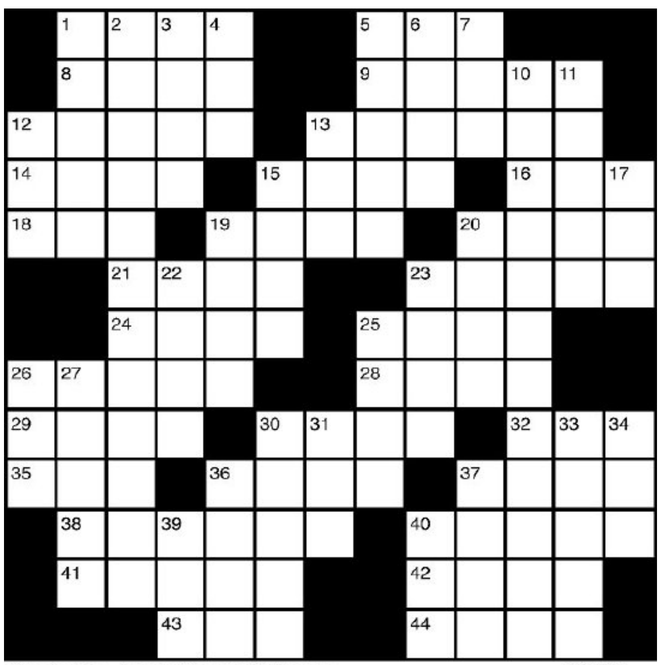
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/2/14

ACROSS
1 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
5 Sajak of “Wheel of Fortune”
8 “The Amazing __”
9 Takes out
12 Not loose enough
13 Hitchcock horror movie that starred Anthony Perkins
14 Kid’s tiny plastic building brick
15 Felix and Garfield
16 Asner and Begley
18 Series for George Eads
19 Hanks and Cruise
20 Advanced business degrees, for short
21 Actor Jannings, the first person to be presented with an Oscar
23 Untrue
24 “Promised __”
25 Actress Rudolph
26 “__ Movie”; Wayans Brothers horror film
28 Late news journalist Sevareid
29 Drags along behind
30 Actress Blanchett
32 “The Karate __”
35 Pot scrubber’s pad
36 Fleur-de-lis
37 Singing voice
38 “Welcome Back, __”
40 Waitress at Mel’s Diner
41 Periods of acting cranky and miffed
42 Impulsive
43 “What __ to Wear”
44 “Spin __”

DOWN
1 Zodiac sign
2 Actress on “Back in the Game”
3 Resound
4 Tennis court divider
5 Emily and Markie
6 Brenneman and Madigan
7 “__ Tac Dough”; old game show
10 Series for James Spader
11 Drinks made with ice cream
12 “The Little Couple” network
13 Actress Dawber
15 “__ Case”
17 180˚ from NNW
19 __ Tim; man who sang “Tiptoe Through the Tulips”
20 “Mother __?”; children’s game
22 “Veronica __”; Kirsten Bell crime drama series
23 Passenger’s payment
25 New York baseball team
26 Sesame and Easy: abbr.
27 Emulates Emeril
30 “Falcon __”
31 “The Fresh Prince of Bel-__”
33 Like skin that’s been exposed to poison ivy
34 Female deer
36 “Leave __ Beaver”
37 Jai __; fast-paced game
39 “Cat on a Hot __ Roof”
40 “Joan of __”; Ingrid Bergman movie

■	A	M	E	N	■	■	P	A	T	■	■	■
■	R	A	C	E	■	■	O	M	I	T	S	■
T	I	G	H	T	■	P	S	Y	C	H	O	■
L	E	G	O	■	C	A	T	S	■	E	D	S
C	S	I	■	T	O	M	S	■	M	B	A	S
■	■	E	M	I	L	■	■	F	A	L	S	E
■	■	L	A	N	D	■	M	A	Y	A	■	■
S	C	A	R	Y	■	■	E	R	I	C	■	■
T	O	W	S	■	C	A	T	E	■	K	I	D
S	O	S	■	I	R	I	S	■	A	L	T	O
■	K	O	T	T	E	R	■	A	L	I	C	E
■	S	N	I	T	S	■	■	R	A	S	H	■
■	■	■	N	O	T	■	■	C	I	T	Y	■

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AREMF

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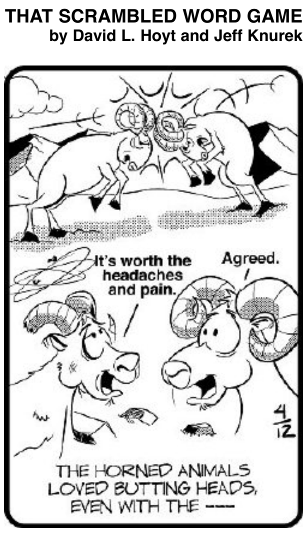
IVCCI

ANSOSE

TAUQIN

Check out the new, free JUMBLE app


It's worth the headaches and pain.
Agreed.
4/12
THE HORNED ANIMALS LOVED BUTTING HEADS, EVEN WITH THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: FRAME CIVIC SEASON QUAINT
Answer: The horned animals loved butting heads, even with the — RAMIFICATIONS

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

State		Standup guy?		Sandler of "Big Daddy"	1	Sorority letters	Cartoon skunk Pepe		Powder a pooch		Cricket sound	Chess master Mikhail
				Cancel a choice								
"_ Cop"		Butcher's stock	2				Some early paintings	3	Mortgage org.			
Joe of "My Cousin Vinny"		Period of time		Defensive spray				4	Rapper _ Wayne Polite rural reply			
					Charged particles						5	Deli order
"Burnt" color	Footnote abbr.		Post-WW2 alliance		Justice Dept. employee	Tom of fiction		Corn units TV horse				6
					7	Printers' widths				Legal org.	"If I Ruled the World" rapper	
Wild party						Big name in fashion					8	
				Sped					Some degs.			
Cheery tune	9	Jazzman Kid				QB's feat						

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1/31/21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

■	V	■	C	■	A	■	■	L	■	D	■	■
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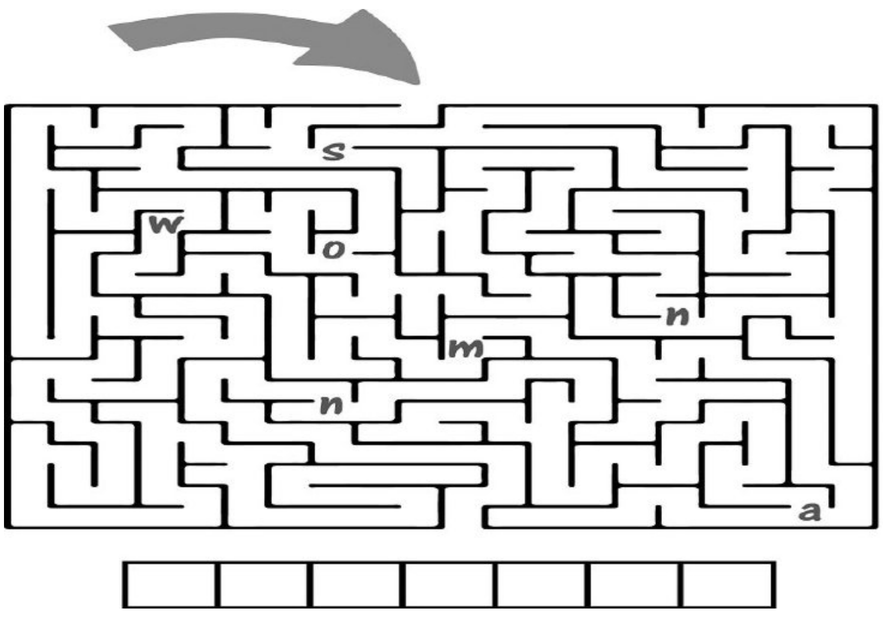
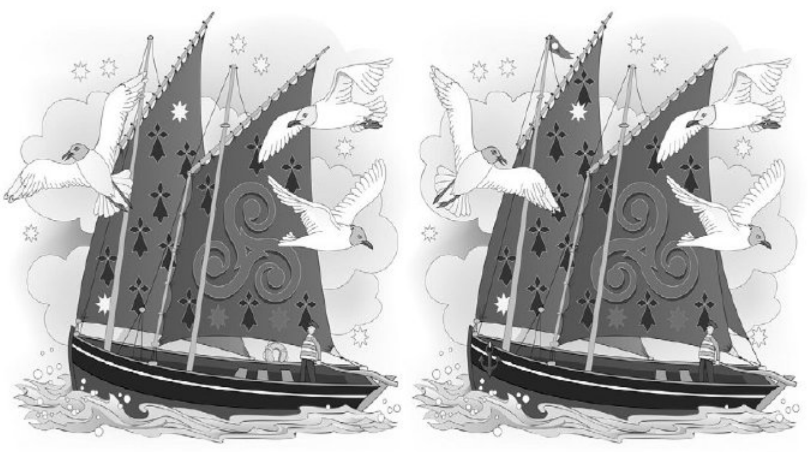
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES





8 Find differences

Chicago Tribune
CHICAGO SPORTS
Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

COLLEGE BASKETBALL NORTHWESTERN

Northwestern guard Boo Buie warms up before a game against Penn State on March 1 at Welsh-Ryan Arena. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Sibling success

Buie helps NU return to NCAA tourney while older brother is an assistant coach

By Shakeia Taylor
Chicago Tribune

As Boo Buie brought the ball upcourt early in the second half of Northwestern's Big Ten Tournament quarterfinal matchup against Penn State, the Wildcats bench was to his right.

They'd lost to Penn State in overtime nine days earlier and this game was proving to be equally tight. Buie took a shot just about every time he touched the ball, but they weren't falling like he needed them to do.

As he crossed midcourt, an assistant coach yelled in his direction: Talor Battle, Buie's older brother.

Growing up near Albany, N.Y., Buie idolized Battle, who played at Penn State from 2007-11 and is the Nittany Lions' all-time leading scorer with 2,213 points. Buie always wanted to follow in Battle's footsteps and play Division I basketball.

"My whole life, I looked up to what it was to be a Division I athlete and play at the highest level," Buie told the Tribune. "So every single day I would just tell myself that I was good enough and just work out super hard.

"But I came up with nothing. I was going out to the park or playground, and a lot of times the baskets didn't have any rims or it'd be raining. I would just go out there and shoot by myself.

"My mom was super supportive, but financially she couldn't do everything."

One of his former coaches helped bridge the gap and kept Buie involved in basketball by making sure he could afford trips and giving him a place to stay.

The payoff is now obvious, as Buie helped turn around Northwestern with 21 wins this season and the program's second NCAA Tournament invitation. The seventh-seeded Wildcats will play 10th-seeded Boise State in the first round Thursday in Sacramento, Calif. (6:35 p.m., truTV).

For his first three years of high school Buie attended Troy in the Albany suburbs, the same school as his brother, but he was lightly

Turn to Northwestern, *Page 2*

Paul Sullivan
In the Wake of the News

Time for Big Ten to prove itself

After 2 straight March flops, conference really needs strong showing

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo slumped back in his chair during his postgame news conference at the Big Ten Tournament with his hands behind his head.

It looked as though Izzo would rather have been anyplace else in the world than sitting on a podium at the United Center answering questions about the Spartans loss to Ohio State.

When the moderator informed Izzo there would be only four more questions, he sarcastically replied: "This is so much fun. Why do we need to stop there?"

Indeed, the fun is just beginning. Izzo's Spartans and seven other Big Ten teams were invited to the NCAA Tournament, in which the power conference has been remarkably weak the last two years.

How many will get out of the first weekend? It's a question that bears watching. The last two editions of March Madness brought several Big Ten favorites to their knees, busting brackets across the nation and leading to criticism the conference is not as dominant as its coaches constantly preach.

Of the nine Big Ten invitees in 2021, only top-seeded Michigan survived the first weekend. The Wolverines made it to the Elite Eight, where they were upset by

Turn to Sullivan, *Page 2*

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Big Ten first-round games

Thursday

(8) Maryland vs. (9) West Virginia
11:15 a.m., CBS-2

(8) Arkansas vs. (9) Illinois
3:30 p.m., TBS

(8) Iowa vs. (9) Auburn
5:50 p.m., TNT

(7) Northwestern vs. (10) Boise St.
6:35 p.m., truTV

(7) Texas A&M vs. (10) Penn State
8:55 p.m., TBS

Friday

(7) Michigan St. vs. (10) USC
11:15 a.m., CBS-2

(1) Purdue vs. (16) FDU/Texas So.
5:50 p.m., TNT

(4) Indiana vs. (13) Kent State
8:55 p.m., TBS

After splurge, Bears can be a little patient

Poles can wait for prices to fall in free agency

Brad Biggs
On the Bears

The money didn't stop flowing Tuesday, but the action was much more subdued than the day before, when the NFL's negotiating window opened — all leading to the start of free agency at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The Bears were one of the more active teams Monday, agreeing to terms with four players just three days after general manager Ryan Poles traded the No. 1 draft pick to the Carolina Panthers for a package that includes wide receiver D.J. Moore.

Add it all up and even before the new league year begins the Bears have five new starters — and likely will be seeking another five or six. Moore and weak-side linebacker Tremaine Edmunds are the highest-profile of the group, which also includes middle linebacker T.J. Edwards, guard Nate Davis and defensive end DeMarcus Walker.

It's neither surprising nor alarming the Bears didn't have more additions until late Tuesday after Poles and coach Matt Eberflus spent the morning at Northwestern's pro day, where they were able to get a look at left tackle Peter Skoronski, defensive tackle Adetomiwa Adebawore, running back Evan Hull and others

The market resets after the opening flurry of free-agent deals, and sometimes it takes a few days for players who expected to be in the first wave to wrap their minds around getting less than they were hoping. Poles repeatedly mentioned seeking "value" when talking about free agency two weeks ago at the scouting combine.

Teams spend time re-evaluating their needs and determining where the market is, and remember, this was considered a down year for free agency as a whole. The Bears dished out contracts totaling $142.5 million to the four new players, and with Moore owed $52.265 million over the next three years, that's nearly $195 million committed in a short span.

The additions plus the re-signing of long snapper Patrick Scales to a one-year, $1,317,500 contract leaves the

Turn to Biggs, *Page 4*

General manager Ryan Poles and the Bears were very active early in the free-agency period with some big signings. **BRIAN CASSELLA/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Hawks' race to bottom becoming a nail-biter

Competition for best odds for No. 1 pick gets tight

Phil Thompson
On the Blackhawks

The fan bases of the Bears and Blackhawks are in different places right now.

Bears fans: jubilation.

Hawks fans: trepidation.

Bears fans are celebrating the team's trade haul — two first-round draft picks, two second-rounders and former Carolina Panthers receiver D.J. Moore — in exchange for the NFL's No. 1 draft pick.

Hawks fans are sweating out each win or close loss, knowing that the NHL's No. 1 pick — and consensus favorite Connor Bedard — isn't secure. Far from it.

The Hawks have stiff competition for the best lottery odds for the top spot with the Columbus Blue Jackets, who have had the league's worst record since Feb. 23. But others have recently entered the mix. The San Jose Sharks replaced the Hawks as the league's second-worst team, and now the Anaheim Ducks are nipping at the Hawks' heels.

Before the season, it was a foregone conclusion the Hawks and Arizona Coyotes would battle it out for the bottom of the standings and the best odds in the draft lottery for the No. 1 pick.

After all, both rosters were supposed to be bereft of talent and the teams could tank without appearing to tank. And certainly after the trade deadline, anyone who could put up a fight looked to have been shipped elsewhere.

But it hasn't turned out that way.

The Coyotes were sixth from last with a 24-32-11 record (.440 points percentage) through Monday's games with only 15 games remaining. The Hawks were third from the bottom at

Turn to Thompson, *Page 3*

Team	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
BULLS	SAC 7 p.m. | NBCSCH		MIN 7 p.m. | NBCSCH	MIA 7 p.m. | NBCSCH	
BLACKHAWKS		@NAS 7 p.m. | Hulu, ESPN+		@ARI 9:30 p.m. | NBCSCH+	
CUBS	@CIN (exh.) 8:05 p.m. | Marquee	ARI (exh.) 3:05 p.m. | Marquee	@SOX / LAD (exh.) 3:05 / 3:05 (Marquee)	@SF (exh.) 3:05 p.m. | Marquee	SD (exh.) 3:05 p.m. | Marquee
SOX	@SF (exh.) 3:05 p.m.	@CLE (exh.) 3:05 p.m.	CUBS (exh.) 3:05 p.m. | NBCSCH	LAD (exh.) 3:05 p.m.	@SEA (exh.) 3:10 p.m.
FIRE				CIN 7:30 p.m. | AppleTV	

Sullivan

from Page 1

11th-seeded UCLA.

The Big Ten again sent nine teams in 2022, and only two made it past the second round. Michigan returned to the Sweet 16 as a No. 11 seed, and Purdue made it as a No. 3 seed. The Wolverines lost to second-seeded Villanova, while the Boilermakers were shocked by 15th-seeded St. Peter's.

"You can say what you want about the Big Ten, they sucked in the tournament," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said in October. "To me, that's what they did. All their wins were in their league. If you can't play in the (NCAA) tournament, then you're not good."

It could've been a case of sour grapes by Boeheim, who was given a thanks-for-the-memories statement by his own university last week before being shoved into retirement.

But he's not alone in thinking the Big Ten was all hat and no cattle. And with eight teams invited to this year's tournament, tying the SEC for the most of any conference, the Big Ten representatives need to show up this March to prove Boeheim and other critics wrong.

Perhaps it might take a collective "Do it for Kevin" rally cry for departing Commissioner Kevin Warren, who will return to the NFL to become the new Chicago Bears president.

Or would just hitting a few more open 3-pointers suffice?

With the spotlight on the Big Ten, here's a look at the eight teams and their chances to still be dancing April 3 in Houston.

The favorites

No. 1 seed Purdue, No. 4 Indiana

The two teams with a legitimate shot at cutting down the nets in Houston and starring in the "One Shining Moment" highlight video after the championship game are both from the Hoosier state.

Purdue features the nation's most dominant inside player in 7-foot-4 Zach Edey and needs his supporting cast only to feed him the ball and not miss open shots. It's not a one-man show, but it's awfully close.

"Everybody (says), 'You go to him so much,' " coach Matt Painter said of Edey. "If they call it by the rules, they're fouling him on every possession. So why shouldn't we get it to him and just try to get in that bonus early and steal points? Obviously he can make tough post-ups and he can get at the rim and he gets offensive rebounds when you take him away."

A possible second-round matchup looms against No. 8 seed Memphis, which knocked off Houston on Sunday in the AAC title game. Boilermakers fans always walk on eggshells come March, knowing their tournament history.

"We've been upset in the first round," Painter said. "We've gotten beat in the second round. We've gotten beat in the Sweet 16. We've gotten beat in the Elite Eight. There's a lot of examples, when you've been in the tournament and had some success, you can talk to the guys about.

"Everybody earned their way here. Understand that. Nobody slipped on a banana peel and ended up in the NCAA Tournament."

True, but some have slipped on a banana peel on their way out.

Indiana's confidence lies in the talent of its all-around superstar, Trayce Jackson-Davis; an easier path to the Sweet 16 than Purdue; and a superior supporting cast with uber-freshman Jalen Hood-Schifino and fellow 3-point threats Trey Galloway (47.5% from 3-point range), Miller Kopp (45.2%) and Tamar Bates (39.5%).

Nothing less than a Sweet 16 meeting against Houston should be acceptable for the Hoosiers.

The long shots

No. 10 Penn State, No. 7 Michigan State, No. 7 Northwestern

No team has left an impression in March quite like Penn State, which appears to be peaking at the right time behind Jalen Pickett and Seth Lundy. The Nittany Lions could face No. 2 seed Texas in the second round, but they proved in Big Ten Tournament wins over Northwestern and Indiana, as well as in a furious comeback in their loss to Purdue in the title game, that they can hang with the upper-echelon teams.

Michigan State likely would have a tough matchup against No. 2 seed Marquette in Columbus, Ohio, if it gets past USC in its opener. The Spartans defense has been inconsistent, but Izzo was confident it would show up come the tournament.

"That's the beauty of it," he said. "I don't have to reinvent the wheel. We've been there, done that. We played really good defense (before)."

Northwestern may have turned in its worst performance of the season in its quarterfinal loss to Penn State, shooting 32% while missing eight first-half layups. The Wildcats can only hope it's out of their system. A return to form in their first-round game against Boise State is a must if they intend to keep their dream season alive.

Despite a second-place finish in the conference, they're still the underdogs from Evanston. The Wildcats seem to perform better when they've been counted out. A potential second-round matchup against UCLA would fit that profile.

The unpredictables

No. 9 Illinois, No. 8 Iowa, No. 8 Maryland

Illinois' up-and-down play from half to half has been well-chronicled. When they're good, they're fun to watch. When they're off, look out.

Facing another power conference team in Arkansas could be exactly what the Illini need to prepare for a potential second-round showdown with Kansas. A matchup of Brad Underwood against former Illini coach Bill Self, returning from a heart episode that sidelined him in the Big 12 Tournament, would need no hype.

Iowa led the conference and was 17th nationally in scoring offense (80.6 points) heading into the Big Ten Tournament. But the Hawkeyes shot 23.5% from 3-point range in a 73-69 quarterfinal loss to Ohio State. Which team will show up Thursday against Auburn?

The betting line favors No. 9 seed West Virginia over Maryland in their first-round matchup, a nod to the Terps' inconsistent play. Coach Kevin Willard bristled when asked Friday after a Big Ten Tournament loss to Indiana whether Maryland needed to refocus for the NCAA Tournament.

"I love my team," Willard said. "I don't know what I have to refocus. We've won 21 games. You can go and refocus."

It must be that time of year.

OHIO STATE
21
PENN STATE
12

Penn State's Talor Battle, right, tries to dribble past Ohio State's Evan Turner during the first half of a 2010 game in Columbus, Ohio. **JAY LAPRETE/AP**

Northwestern

from Page 1

recruited. He said he received interest from Division II schools, but his dream was D-I and he was determined to change the level of interest he was receiving. Buie decided to reclassify and go to prep school for higher visibility.

"Each year I got better," Buie said of his two years at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine. "I didn't get any scholarships. I was playing tremendously. I averaged like 30 points, five assists and five rebounds against some of the best players in the country, definitely with the best league in the country, but I just wasn't getting any opportunities, no schools offering."

Undeterred, Buie felt he still had a chance to prove himself. He used the AAU circuit, where many who want scholarships try to get attention, but with the amount of talent on his teams Buie wasn't playing a lot. He was limited to about three minutes a game.

"Finally, in the last two weeks of my whole entire AAU career, I got a scholarship from Northwestern," he said. "I was playing with Mass Rivals and I had a week straight where I was averaging 30 points.

"I remember Coach (Emanuel) Dildy — he's not here anymore, he went to Oklahoma — but I remember he called me on the phone about a week after that tournament and offered me a scholarship and that was my only one. So that's how I got here."

His dream of making it to a Division I school like his brother had come true. Two years after Buie arrived at Northwestern, the dream would have a new layer: Battle joined him as an assistant on coach Chris Collins' staff.

Battle's Penn State resume included helping the Nittany Lions to the 2009 NIT championship and earning all-tournament honors in 2011 as Penn State advanced to its first Big Ten Tournament championship game and first NCAA Tournament appearance in a decade. He also played professionally overseas and was an assistant coach at Penn State.

During that time Battle was on the sideline in a matchup against his brother's Wildcats.

"It's been a really cool experience. I've coached against them, but before that I was just a fan and a brother," Battle said, smiling. "I would just say it's been a really, really cool experience not just for me and him but my entire family."

Basketball isn't the only thing that keeps the brothers close. Battle said being around Buie every day allows them to be together when they've lost a game or just had a bad day. He, his wife, Gretchen, and their daughters spend time with Buie regularly and offer support wherever they can.

"It's been really good for me just having someone there because at this level it's definitely a business," Buie said. "Every time he yells at me or gets on me, I know it's all love."

While Battle may yell at his brother from time to time, he says it's "a blessing" to have spent the last two years witnessing Buie's growth not only as a player but as a young man.

"He's just made tremendous strides," Battle said. "This past offseason and this season, his leadership has grown so much and so has his own personal play.

"He believes in his teammates, making plays for other guys and making plays for himself. He's really matured in that aspect. He just does what the game gives him. And he's been a great leader for us. He's definitely been the head of the snake for our team all season long."

While his team traded baskets with Penn State at the United Center on Friday, Buie attempted over and over to be the leader his brother had seen him emerge as. He struggled with his shot but continued to try to will the team to a win.

It wasn't enough, though. In 36 minutes Buie scored 16 points on 6-for-17 field-goal shooting, including a 2-for-7 mark beyond the 3-point arc.

The Wildcats were defeated 67-65 in overtime. Though they lost, Buie remained hopeful.

"We're going to go back and we're going to watch film," he said after the game. "Like Brooks (Barnhizer) said, everything is still in the positive. Our season's not done yet. We're playing in the tournament and a chance to win some games. That right there is motivating alone.

"You win some, you lose some, but you've got to come back with the same attitude. Nothing changes. You've just got to get better."

Buie knows a bit about that. He has spent his entire basketball career trying to get better. And he's doing it with his brother by his side.

BIG TEN CONFE
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Northwestern guard Boo Buie shoots a 3-pointer as Penn State guard Jalen Pickett defends in a Big Ten Tournament quarterfinal March 10 at the United Center. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

WHITE SOX

United States second baseman Tim Anderson, left, throws to first for an out against Canada during the fourth inning of a World Baseball Classic game in Phoenix on Tuesday. **GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP**

Flexible piece

Anderson switches to 2nd base for Team USA for extra offense

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

PHOENIX — Mark DeRosa needed Tim Anderson's bat in the lineup.

Canada started a left-hander in Monday's World Baseball Classic matchup, and the Team USA manager wanted to play both Anderson and Trea Turner.

The only issue? Both are shortstops — Anderson for the Chicago White Sox and Turner for the Philadelphia Phillies.

DeRosa asked Anderson if he would shift to second base.

"I was open for it," Anderson said. "It's a matter of just getting comfortable and I got comfortable as the game went on. And I was able to complete the task."

Anderson showed he's very comfortable on the big stage, too, going 2-for-3 with a triple, one RBI, one walk and two runs in a 12-1 victory in a crucial Pool C game at Chase Field. With a lead of at least 10 runs, the game was called in the seventh per the tournament rules for the first round.

Anderson has excelled in the postseason and has collected a hit as a starter in the All-Star Game. He ended the inaugural Field of Dreams game in 2021 with a dramatic walk-off two-run homer.

On a roster filled with top-notch talent, he made his mark in another major event Monday.

"He's a star," said Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, who was Team USA's designated hitter. "There's no way else to put it. When we went to Chicago, watching him play, I don't think we got him out, to be honest.

"And I'll put his swing the other way with anybody. His approach — he knows the situation and he's a ballplayer. And he's doing anything to help the team win."

That included playing second base Monday.

"It's really not the first time I've played on the other side of the bag," Anderson said with a smile. "With the shift, I stayed on that side."

Anderson has spent his entire big-league career at shortstop. DeRosa said he first discussed the option of playing second with Anderson when he was named to the team "just because of his ability to hit left-handed pitching."

Anderson cleanly fielded each of the four grounders hit his way.

He might have been at a new position, but Anderson was playing behind a familiar pitcher with Sox teammate Lance Lynn starting.

DeRosa credited the right-hander for setting the tone that allowed Team USA to rebound from Sunday's 11-5 loss to Mexico. Lynn allowed one run on two hits and struck out six in five innings.

He received plenty of offensive support early, with Team USA scoring nine runs in the bottom of the first. Anderson walked and scored during the inning, which featured a three-run homer by Trout.

Anderson drove in a run with a triple to right-center in the second, and Turner hit a solo homer later in the inning. Those hits came against right-handed reliever R.J. Freure.

Anderson's other hit came in the sixth, a single to right against lefty Adam Loewen.

"You've seen it over the course of his career, every year he's gotten better," Lynn said of Anderson. "And everybody tells him that he can't do something, he's going to prove you wrong and do everything that he can to win, no matter where he is, whatever the situation is, whatever situation you put him in.

"And that's who he is. He's going to win at all costs."

Much like he has done with the Sox, Anderson has provided a spark for Team USA, DeRosa said.

"What a talented ballplayer," DeRosa said. "(He) wants the moment. Got an edge about him. It's a feeling-out process at first. I think he wanted to let some people know how good he was in that dugout, in that clubhouse, the coaching staff on down the line.

"He has really caught a lot of people's eyes on this team."

Anderson had two hits and three RBIs starting at shortstop against Mexico.

"Being in the lineup with so many dudes, you ain't really got to do too much," Anderson said. "The whole goal is really to just pass the stick, and I think you saw it out of the gate (Monday). And we just kept pouring it on them."

Team USA (2-1) concludes Pool C play Wednesday against Colombia. As Monday showed, Anderson is ready to contribute in any matter.

"I'm always out to prove something," he said. "Just to be among some of the greats, I get a chance for the world to see what kind of athlete I am and also the guys get to know what kind of person I am. I'm just very thankful and blessed for this opportunity."

CACTUS LEAGUE REPORT

MESA AND GLENDALE, Ariz.. — Crunch time is approaching with about two weeks left on the Cactus League schedule.

Coming off Monday's day off, Cubs manager David Ross said his conversations with the front office haven't become too serious yet as roster decisions loom. But his messaging to the team is taking on a different tone.

"We've talked to a couple guys already that the bats will get a little more focused, signs will start to be put on and start to implement a lot of that stuff fundamentally," Ross said before Tuesday's night game against the Colorado Rockies.

White Sox pitcher Dylan Cease bounced back Tuesday against the Oakland Athletics at Camelback Ranch. The right-hander allowed one earned run on three hits and struck out four in 3⅓ innings of a 5-4 Sox victory.

Cease allowed 11 earned runs in two-thirds of an inning in his previous start March 8 against the Kansas City Royals.

"Definitely very much a positive step in the right direction," Cease said.

Merryweather hopes to slide to bullpen spot

Count right-hander Julian Merryweather in the sweeping slider club among the Cubs pitchers.

Merryweather has added the pitch to his repertoire after the Cubs claimed him off waivers from the Toronto Blue Jays in January. He considers it a work in progress and was unsure he wanted to learn a new grip for his slider, which he heavily relies on. Merryweather's slider accounted for 34% of his pitches last season.

"I was a little hesitant, like, is this going to be enough time for me to work on it?" Merryweather told the Tribune. "And the more I feel like I've trusted it and thrown it in games, the more comfortable you get. So that's probably the biggest takeaway from the change. So far it's felt good, better each time I go out.

"There's not going to be a magical grip that's going to work better than the other ones. It's just about how comfortable you are throwing it."

Merryweather, 31, was limited to 41 games last year in the Toronto Blue Jays organization, including 26 in the majors.

An oblique injury set him back, and he dealt with a knee issue near the end of the season.

He's glad he hasn't needed to worry about how his body has felt this spring, allowing him to focus on pitching and securing a bullpen job. He knows he needs more than his upper 90s velocity to be effective.

"It's hard to lean on velocity even in the big-league level," Merryweather said. "Baseball is now at the point where every team is going to have a handful of guys that are in the upper echelon velocity-wise. You need that secondary pitch, which is a main focus for me."

He hadn't allowed an earned run in three innings this spring entering Tuesday while recording four strikeouts and one walk.

"Julian's done a nice job of coming in and continuing to work on developing some other weapons and also stay true to who he is," manager David Ross said. "When he's healthy, he's a pretty darn good pitcher and he's got real electric stuff. Very much a veteran presence to him on the mound. Really pleased so far."

Grifol likes Kopech's progress

Sox starter Michael Kopech worked first from the windup and then the stretch Sunday against the Los Angeles Angels.

Manager Pedro Grifol liked what he saw in both cases.

"Just a great outing for him," Grifol said Tuesday morning. "He took what he did in the back field and took it straight to the main field, which was great."

Kopech retired all nine batters he faced, recording one strikeout. He went from the windup for the first eight outs and then switched to the stretch.

"That third up was critical," Grifol said. "We needed him to get a third up (and) he was able to finish it. We talked about getting him out there before that third inning and then if he runs out of pitches, he runs out of pitches.

"He was able to finish and he still had extra. He threw a little bit in the bullpen. I was really pleased with what he's doing."

García 'busting his butt' this spring

Sox utility player Leury García hit a pop-up to shallow center Sunday. He took off, and when the ball landed between three Angels, García was at second with a hustle double.

"I love seeing that kind of stuff," Grifol said Tuesday. "That's the kind of baseball that we want to play here. Just pressure, pressure, pressure. He's doing a nice job. He's competing for a job."

Grifol thought García put together some good at-bats Sunday, going 1-for-2 with a walk.

"Busted his butt on that ball that dropped," Grifol said. "Mental mistake after that (getting doubled up on a liner to center), but I was happy with the way he went about that fly that ended up dropping and he ended up at second base."

García is looking to bounce back after slashing .210/.233/.267 in 97 games last season. He was slowed by a lower back strain that led to a stint on the injured list in late August.

"Last year was kind of up and down, kind of a weird year," García told the Tribune last week. "It's a long season and a lot of things can happen. This year I came into spring training healthy with a lot of work in the offseason."

García was 4-for-23 (.174) this spring entering Tuesday's game. He doubled in his first at-bat.

World Baseball Classic news

- Cubs prospect Owen Caissie continues to impress for Team Canada. He delivered a two-out RBI single in a 5-0 win Tuesday against Colombia. Minor-leaguer Jared Young also recorded a hit and a run in the victory.
- Sox starter Lance Lynn struck out two of the three batters in the first inning, setting a tone for Team USA's 12-1 victory against Canada in a seven-inning Pool C game Monday in Phoenix. Lynn allowed one run on two hits with six strikeouts in five innings.
- Sox reliever José Ruiz struck out two in two innings in Venezuela's 4-1 win against Nicaragua in a Pool D game in Miami.

—LaMond Pope and Meghan Montemurro

Thompson

from Page 1

22-38-6 (.379).

On Tuesday, the Hawks pulled off a 6-3 upset of the Boston Bruins, the top Stanley Cup contender who came in with a league-leading 50-10-5 record. The Hawks were supposed to be vastly outmatched by every opponent they've faced this month, and while they've gone 2-4-1, the overall goal differential is just minus-1 (22-21) after Tuesday's game.

Someone forgot to give the stripped-down Hawks the script.

Take the last two road games.

On Friday night, the Florida Panthers had a 73% win probability, according to FiveThirtyEight, but they had to rally from two goals down to scratch out a 4-3 overtime win over the Hawks.

The following night, the Tampa Bay Lightning had a 76% win probability, but it took a last-minute snipe by Brayden Point to break a 1-1 tie and pave the way for a 3-1 Bolts win.

"It's the NHL and they don't like to lose," Hawks coach Luke Richardson said of his players. "You don't want to hear we had a good effort. That gets old after a while."

Richardson has said since he took the job that he's not coaching to lose, and he elaborated on that thought process Tuesday.

"I told (the front office) right from day one, I'm not here to do that," he said about tanking. "I'm going to make their job really hard, and that's our objective.

"I have all the trust in the world after watching last year's draft, no matter what pick we have, that the scouts came up with three really good first-rounders and some great second-, third-rounders and down the line."

Richardson said the Hawks' moves last summer show the overhaul of the scouting department is working.

"With all the picks that we have in the next three years especially, I'm not even looking to see where we're picking," he said. "We coach each game. We're playing the Boston Bruins, probably the best team in the NHL this year, and we're trying to figure out the best game plan to beat them.

"Whether that helps or hurts long term, I don't think it's going to really do much (from) a coaching perspective. ... I'm pretty happy with — and it's not over yet — but the first year's stepping stone for culture and what we want to do here and accomplish, and I think it's being seen in the games now."

At this point there should be no doubt about Richardson's intentions or that the players have bought in.

But while the players may see these close losses as heartbreakers, the front office certainly will be closely monitoring the tiebreakers.

If you dive into the numbers, there's good news and bad news.

Of the top four "contenders" for last place, the Hawks benefitted from having the toughest remaining strength of schedule (.574) through Monday while the Ducks had the easiest (.542), according to NHL Stats and Information.

The Blue Jackets had the next-toughest at .570. And the Jackets also had one more game to play (17) than the Hawks (16).

The Sharks had a slightly worse record than the Hawks entering Tuesday — tied at 50 points but with a .373 points percentage to the Hawks' .379 — but a better record (.421) against their remaining opponents.

While that bodes well for the Hawks, who are .365 against their remaining schedule, the Jackets are better-positioned there too (.333).

Based on 1,000 simulations of the remainder of season, hockey-reference.com projects the Jackets could finish comfortably in the cellar with 51 points in the likely worst-case scenario. The Hawks' worst-case projection (54 points) also puts them ahead of the Sharks (53).

If it gets to tiebreakers, the Ducks have the fewest regulation wins (12) of the bottom-feeders while the Hawks, Sharks and Jackets have 14, 14 and 15, respectively.

Entering Tuesday's schedule, Moneypuck.com placed the Hawks with the third-best odds (13.8%) to earn the top lottery slot, behind the Jackets (19.4%) and Sharks (14.1%).

Once the final standings are set, the last-place team will have an 18.5% chance of winning the first draw.

Second through fifth place are 13.5%, 11.5%, 9.5% and 8.5%.

There have been two draws for the lottery the last two seasons, and the last-place team retained the No. 1 pick both years.

If the Hawks can't land Bedard, the next-best prospect could be Adam Fantilli.

Since 2016, when the NHL held three draws, a lower-seeded draft slot has acquired the second pick every year. A pessimist also could invent a scenario where the 10-slot limit for teams ranked 13th or later could push the Hawks into fourth or fifth place.

Whatever the projection, the safest place for the Hawks is the basement.

It's a rare opportunity to be in position to draft a generational player like Bedard, and some view Fantilli or Matvei Michkov in the same light.

The Hawks have endured a lot of painful losses on the scoreboard and on the roster since last summer.

Beloved players such as Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat have been sacrificed for this rebuild, but the biggest defeat come draft day would be one loss too few.

David Montgomery signed a three-year deal with the Lions worth $18 million, ESPN reported. He played 60 games over 4 seasons with the Bears. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

RB Montgomery signs with Lions

Bears reach to 2-year deal with running back Homer

By Colleen Kane
Chicago Tribune

After four seasons with the Bears, David Montgomery is joining one of their NFC North rivals.

The veteran running back will sign a three-year contract with the Detroit Lions, ESPN reported Tuesday night. The deal is worth a reported $18 million with $11 million guaranteed.

The Bears moved quickly to restock the position, reaching an agreement with former Seattle Seahawks running back Travis Homer, a source confirmed.

A 2019 third-round pick, Montgomery rushed for 3,609 yards and 26 touchdowns in 60 games for the Bears, averaging 3.9 yards per carry. He also had 155 catches for 1,240 yards and four touchdowns.

His best season was 2020, when he topped 1,000 rushing yards and had a career-high eight touchdowns and 4.3 yards per carry.

Montgomery was a favorite of many during his time at Halas Hall because of his work ethic and character. General manager Ryan Poles said earlier this offseason he would love to keep Montgomery in Chicago, but he noted the contract would have to work out.

The Bears return Khalil Herbert, who totaled 731 rushing yards and four touchdowns in 2022, his second season in the league. Herbert's 5.7 yards per carry was best in the NFL among running backs.

A short time after Montgomery's deal was announced, news came out that the Bears agreed to add Homer on a two-year deal that ESPN reported is worth a maximum of $4.5 million.

Homer was a sixth-round pick by the Seahawks in 2019.

In his first four years, he rushed for 453 yards on 83 carries and had 52 catches for 464 yards and two touchdowns.

He also had 18 kickoff returns for 444 yards and a touchdown and 26 special teams tackles.

It remains to be seen if the Bears will add another running back as a complement to Herbert beyond Homer, who has value on special teams as well as offense.

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Chicago Tribune
STORE

Jackson healing, happy about team's moves

Safety says he's 'ahead of schedule,' excited about additions on defense

By Dan Wiederer
Chicago Tribune

Safety Eddie Jackson has been like many Chicago Bears fans this week, tracking the team's free-agency activity on social media. On Monday evening, Jackson offered a 29-character Twitter review of general manager Ryan Poles.

"That's what I'm talking about," he tweeted.

That reaction came in the middle of a 10-hour surge in which Poles and the Bears agreed to terms with four veterans, including three defenders. Tremaine Edmunds was the headliner, a two-time Pro Bowl selection coming to play weak-side linebacker for coach Matt Eberflus. It was that signing that prompted Jackson's excited reaction.

Edmunds will be flanked by fellow newcomer T.J. Edwards, a Lake Villa native and lifelong Bears fan who was a starter for the NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles last season. The Bears also added pass rush help late Monday with defensive end DeMarcus Walker.

Jackson approved.

"It's always fun to add those type of players," he said Tuesday of the defensive additions. "It's exciting to have a chance to work with those guys. I feel like we picked up some pretty good guys."

There was also last week's big trade with the Bears sending the No. 1 draft pick to the Carolina Panthers in exchange for four picks over the next three years plus standout receiver D.J. Moore.

"He's a great receiver," Jackson said. "I feel like him and (Darnell) Mooney and (Chase Claypool) are going to make a great group. You've seen the things he's been able to do with the Panthers with lesser quarterbacks. Now to have Justin Fields throwing him the ball, I feel like he's going to have a lot of success."

Jackson was speaking at the Bears' annual Ed Block Courage Award luncheon at Manzo's in Des Plaines. He was chosen by teammates as the 2023 honoree for his professionalism, strength, dedication and involvement in the community.

"It's a true honor," Jackson said.

Jackson is coming off a mixed-emotions season in which he was resurgent with four interceptions in 12 games before suffering a season-ending injury to the Lisfranc ligament in his left foot.

He fortunately avoided surgery and has been grinding through the recovery and rehabilitation process. Three weeks ago, he said, he was given the green light to resume running.

"It was a great feeling, man," Jackson said. "You don't know how grateful you are to run (again)."

Jackson couldn't specify when he expects to be fully cleared to return to practice. The Bears organized team activities begin May 22 in Lake Forest. Training camp starts in late July. Jackson remains optimistic he is on the right path.

"I feel like we're ahead of schedule," he said. "So whenever the opportunity presents itself, I'll be ready."

Jackson, 29, is entering his seventh season with the Bears and has seen a lot during his time in Chicago.

He has been part of two playoff teams and two last-place squads. He was an All-Pro in 2018 on a defense that was one of the league's best. Last season, despite Jackson's production, the defense failed to do much of anything well.

After last season's 3-14 nosedive, Jackson knows much of 2023 will be about raising the bar again at Halas Hall. As a team captain, he knows he will be responsible for setting a tone.

"It's just the way you work," Jackson said. "The way I approach this, how I come in and work every day off the field, you keep those same characteristics and just attack this thing day by day."

While presenting Jackson with his award Tuesday, Eberflus promised attendees at the luncheon that the roster-building efforts will continue.

"We're not done, just so you know," Eberflus said. "We have lots to do. And we're excited about that."

Jackson is, too, as the Bears turn the page.

Eddie Jackson runs after an interception against the Cowboys on Oct. 30 in Arlington, Texas. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Biggs

from Page 1

Bears with a little less than $45 million in salary-cap space. It's plenty of room for Poles to maneuver in any direction he chooses.

What spots do the Bears need to fill between now and the conclusion of the draft? Right tackle, center, an edge rusher (maybe two), at least one defensive tackle (probably two) and a cornerback. Running back David Montgomery is departing for a three-year, $18 million contract with the Detroit Lions. The Bears moved quickly, adding former Seattle Seahawk Travis Homer on a two-year contract. He has been a core special teams player, so it wouldn't be a surprise if they added another back, perhaps during the draft.

If David Montgomery departs — a source said Tuesday that multiple teams are involved — a running back to share chores with Khalil Herbert becomes a need. Then the Bears have to start compiling a list of wants.

The prices players were seeking will begin to fall as the week unfolds, and quality veterans will be cast off by other teams in the weeks and months ahead. The Bears need to remain cap-flexible to be decisive if they see a fit reach the open market.

It's worth wondering if the Bears are motivated to land one defensive tackle in free agency. Sheldon Rankins, A'Shawn Robinson, Poona Ford and Greg Gaines are options. Signing one starting tackle would give Poles depth and more flexibility when it comes to the No. 9 pick.

The Bears have to make investments up front if they want their splurge on Edmunds and Edwards to pay off. Linebackers can make only so many plays if they're not protected by defensive linemen.

It's easy to remember none of the reported agreements is official until contracts are signed. The Bears ran into that with defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi at this time last year, when a medical exam unraveled his deal. Ogunjobi just re-signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Bears figure to have their new players get physicals between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning.

By then, maybe they'll have another addition or two at their price.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
x-Boston	65	50	10	5	105	245	142
Toronto	66	40	18	8	88	226	179
Tampa Bay	67	39	22	6	84	233	206
Florida	67	33	27	7	73	229	226
Buffalo	66	33	28	5	71	242	239
Ottawa	66	33	29	4	70	207	212
Detroit	66	30	27	9	69	199	217
Montreal	67	26	35	6	58	184	244

METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Carolina	65	43	14	8	94	217	165
New Jersey	66	44	16	6	94	235	177
N.Y. Rangers	66	37	19	10	84	217	186
Pittsburgh	66	34	22	10	78	217	210
N.Y. Islanders	68	34	26	8	76	196	187
Washington	67	32	28	7	71	208	200
Philadelphia	66	24	31	11	59	169	217
Columbus	65	20	38	7	47	169	244

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Dallas	67	37	17	13	87	234	180
Minnesota	67	38	21	8	84	195	178
Colorado	65	37	22	6	80	214	185
Winnipeg	67	38	26	3	79	210	189
Nashville	64	33	24	7	73	186	189
St. Louis	66	29	32	5	63	205	242
Arizona	67	24	32	11	59	188	237
Chicago	66	22	38	6	50	165	236

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Vegas	67	41	20	6	88	217	185
Los Angeles	67	38	20	9	85	228	221
Seattle	67	37	23	7	81	234	216
Edmonton	67	36	23	8	80	258	228
Calgary	67	30	24	13	73	209	205
Vancouver	65	28	32	5	61	222	253
Anaheim	67	22	35	10	54	172	271
San Jose	67	19	36	12	50	193	257

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.
x-clinched playoff spot

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal at Pittsburgh, late
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, late
Vegas at Philadelphia, late
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, late
Winnipeg at Carolina, late
Detroit at Nashville, late
Boston at Chicago, late
Ottawa at Edmonton, late
Calgary at Arizona, late
Dallas at Vancouver, late
Columbus at San Jose, late
N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Washington, 6p.m.
Colorado at Toronto, 6p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 8:30p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Anaheim, 9p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Colorado at Ottawa, 6p.m.
Montreal at Florida, 6p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 6p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 6p.m.
Boston at Winnipeg, 7p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 7p.m.
Dallas at Edmonton, 8p.m.
Calgary at Vegas, 9p.m.
Vancouver at Arizona, 9p.m.
Columbus at Los Angeles, 9:30p.m.
Seattle at San Jose, 9:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, 6p.m.
St. Louis at Washington, 6p.m.
Columbus at Anaheim, 9p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Buffalo 4, Toronto 3
Colorado 8, Montreal 4
Dallas 5, Seattle 2

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Atlanta	2	0	1	7	6	2
Nashville	2	0	1	7	4	0
Cincinnati	2	0	1	7	3	1
Inter Miami CF	2	1	0	6	4	1
Philadelphia	2	1	0	6	5	3
New England	2	1	0	6	4	4
Orlando City	1	0	2	5	2	1
Columbus	1	1	1	4	4	5
D.C. United	1	1	1	4	4	5
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	2	3
Toronto FC	0	1	2	2	4	5
N.Y. Red Bulls	0	1	2	2	1	2
Chicago	0	1	1	1	1	2
CF Montréal	0	3	0	0	0	5
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	7
WESTERN	**W**	**L**	**T**	**PT**	**GF**	**GA**
St. Louis City SC	3	0	0	9	8	4
Los Angeles FC	2	0	0	6	7	2
Seattle	2	1	0	6	6	1
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	5	4
San Jose	2	1	0	6	4	3
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	1	4	2	1
Portland	1	2	0	3	4	5
Real Salt Lake	1	2	0	3	3	5
Sporting KC	0	1	2	2	0	1
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	3	5
LA Galaxy	0	1	1	1	1	3
Colorado	0	2	1	1	0	5
Houston	0	2	0	0	1	5

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Los Angeles FC at Seattle, 3p.m.
Portland at Atlanta, 6:30p.m.
Philadelphia at CF Montréal, 6:30p.m.
Nashville at New England, 6:30p.m.
Columbus atN.Y. Red Bulls, 6:30p.m.
D.C. United at New York City FC, 6:30 p.m.
Charlotte FC at Orlando City, 6:30p.m.
Miami at Toronto FC, 6:30p.m.
Cincinnati at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Sporting KC at FC Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Austin FC at Houston, 7:30p.m.
San Jose at St. Louis City SC, 7:30p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 8:30p.m.
Vancouver at LA Galaxy, 9:30p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Arsenal	27	21	3	3	62	25	66
Man City	27	19	4	4	67	25	61
Man United	26	15	5	6	41	35	50
Tottenham	27	15	3	9	49	37	48
Newcastle	25	11	11	3	37	18	44
Liverpool	26	12	6	8	47	29	42
Brighton	24	11	6	7	45	31	39
Fulham	27	11	6	10	38	37	39
Brentford	25	9	11	5	40	33	38
Chelsea	26	10	7	9	27	26	37
Aston Villa	26	10	5	11	32	39	35
Crystal Palace	26	6	9	11	21	33	27
Wolverhampton	27	7	6	14	20	37	27
Notting. Forest	26	6	8	12	21	47	26
Everton	27	6	7	14	20	38	25
Leicester	26	7	3	16	37	46	24
West Ham	26	6	6	14	24	34	24
Bournemouth	26	6	6	14	25	51	24
Leeds	26	5	8	13	31	42	23
Southampton	26	6	4	16	20	41	22

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Brighton vs. Crystal Palace, 2:30p.m.
Southampton vs. Brentford, 2:30p.m.

FRIDAY'S MATCH
Notting. Forest vs. Newcastle, 3p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Aston Villa vs. Bournemouth, 10a.m.
Brentford vs. Leicester, 10a.m.
Southampton vs. Tottenham, 10a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Leeds, 10a.m.
Chelsea vs. Everton, 12:30p.m.
Liverpool vs. Fulham, ppd

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
Arsenal vs. Crystal Palace, 9a.m.
Brighton vs. Man United, ppd
Man City vs. West Ham, ppd

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

(Home teams listed first)

SECOND ROUND
Advanced to quarterfinals: Benfica Chelsea, Bayern Munich, AC Milan

Tuesday's results, second leg
Manchester City 7, RB Leipzig 0
(Man. City advanced 8-1on aggreate)
Internazionale 0, FC Porto 0
(Internazionale advanced aggregate 1-0)

Wednesday's matches, second leg
Napoli vs. Eintracht Frankfurt, 4p.m.
(Napoli leads aggregate 2-0)
Real Madrid vs. Liverpool, 4p.m.
(Real Madrid leads aggreate 5-2)

BASKETBALL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	47	22	.681	—
Philadelphia	45	22	.672	1
Brooklyn	39	29	.574	7½
New York	40	30	.571	7½
Toronto	32	36	.471	14½

SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	37	33	.529	—
Atlanta	34	35	.493	2½
Washington	31	37	.456	5
Orlando	28	40	.412	8
Charlotte	22	48	.314	15

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	49	19	.721	—
Cleveland	43	27	.614	7
Chicago	31	36	.463	17½
Indiana	31	38	.449	18½
Detroit	16	53	.232	33½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	41	26	.612	—
Dallas	34	35	.493	8
New Orleans	33	35	.485	8½
San Antonio	17	50	.254	24
Houston	16	52	.235	25½

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	46	22	.676	—
Minnesota	35	34	.507	11½
Oklahoma City	33	35	.485	13
Utah	33	36	.478	13½
Portland	31	37	.456	15

PACIFIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Sacramento	40	27	.597	—
Phoenix	37	31	.544	3½
Golden State	36	33	.522	5
L.A. Clippers	36	33	.522	5
L.A. Lakers	33	35	.485	7½

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland at Charlotte, late
Detroit at Washington, late
Denver at Toronto, late
Brooklyn at Oklahoma City, late
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, late
Orlando at San Antonio, late
Milwaukee at Phoenix, late
New York at Portland, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Memphis at Miami, 6:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 6:30p.m.
Boston at Minnesota, 7p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 7p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 7p.m.
Dallas at San Antonio, 7:30p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 9p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Detroit 117, Indiana 97
Minnesota 136, Atlanta 115
Memphis 104, Dallas 88
Miami 119, Utah 115
Houston 111, Boston 109
Golden State 123, Phoenix 112
Milwaukee 133, Sacramento 124

MLB SPRING TRAINING

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.
Kansas City	14	3	.824
L.A. Angels	11	5	.688
Boston	9	5	.643
Toronto	11	7	.611
Chi. White Sox	8	6	.571
Seattle	9	7	.563
Tampa Bay	9	7	.563
Detroit	11	9	.550
Houston	7	6	.538
Minnesota	8	8	.500
N.Y. Yankees	9	9	.500
Baltimore	8	9	.471
Oakland	7	10	.412
Texas	7	11	.389
Cleveland	5	11	.313
NAITONAL LEAGUE	**W**	**L**	**PCT.**
L.A. Dodgers	10	4	.714
St. Louis	9	5	.643
Chi. Cubs	10	6	.625
Atlanta	8	7	.533
Philadelphia	8	8	.500
Washington	7	8	.467
Cincinnati	8	10	.444
San Diego	8	10	.444
Milwaukee	7	9	.438
N.Y. Mets	7	9	.438
Arizona	7	11	.389
San Francisco	7	11	.389
Colorado	6	10	.375
Miami	4	11	.267
Pittsburgh	4	11	.267

Standings do no include ties or games vs. non-MLB oppoents

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota (ss) 4
Pittsburgh (ss) 2, Minnesota (ss) 2
St. Louis 3, Houston (ss) 3
Baltimore 7, Pittsburgh (ss) 6
Atlanta 15, Philadelphia 5
Detroit 6, Boston 2
Miami 1, Houston (ss) 0
Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 0
L.A. Angels 8, Cleveland 6
Chi. White Sox 5, Oakland 4
Seattle 8, Kansas City (ss) 6
San Francisco 7, Arizona 6
N.Y. Yankees 10, Toronto 3
Colorado vs. Chi. Cubs, late
Cincinnati vs. Kansas City (ss), late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Tampa Bay vs. Boston12:05p.m.
Houston vs. Atlanta, 12:05p.m.
Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees, 12:05p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Toronto, 12:07p.m.
Washington vs. Miami, 12:10p.m.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets, 12:10p.m.
Chi. White Sox vs. S.F. (ss), 3:05p.m.
Kansas City vs. Texas, 3:05p.m.
Seattle vs. Oakland, 3:05p.m.
San Fran. (ss) vs. Arizona (ss), 3:10p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. Cincinnati, 8:05p.m.
Colorado vs. L.A. Dodgers, 8:05p.m.
Milwaukee vs. Arizona (ss), 8:40p.m.
Cleveland vs. San Diego, 8:40p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 6, Baltimore (ss) 5
Baltimore (ss) 11, Detroit (ss) 7
Tampa Bay 9, Detroit (ss) 5
Washington 7, Houston 6
Minnesota 1, N.Y. Yankees 0
Toronto 16, Boston 3
N.Y. Mets 9, Miami 3
San Francisco 11, San Diego 9
Arizona 11, Texas 8
L.A. Dodgers 11, Cleveland 4
Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 0
Oakland 8, Colorado 7
L.A. Angels 8, Seattle 2

WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

GROUP A	W	L	Pct.
Cuba-a	2	2	.500
Italy-a	2	2	.500
Panama	2	2	.500
Taiwan	2	2	.500
Netherlands	2	2	.500
GROUP B	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**
Japan-a	4	0	1.000
Australia-a	3	1	.750
South Korea	2	2	.500
Czech Republic	1	3	.250
China	0	4	.000
GROUP C	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**
Canada	2	1	.667
United States	2	1	.667
Mexico	1	1	.500
Colombia	1	2	.333
Great Britain	1	2	.333
GROUP D	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**
Venezuela-a	3	0	1.000
Puerto Rico	2	1	.667
Dominican Republic	2	1	.667
Israel	1	2	.333
Nicaragua	0	4	.000

* - advanced to the quarterfinals

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Venezuela 4, Nicaragua 1
Canada 5, Colombia 0
Dominican Republic 10, Isreal 0(7)
Great Britain vs. Mexico, late

WEDNESDAY"S GAMES
Australia at Cuba, 5a.m.
Venezuela at Israel, 11a.m.
Mexico at Canada, 2p.m.
Puerto Rico at Dominican Rep., 6p.m.
United States at Colombia, 9p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Mexico 11, United States 5
Australia 8, Czech Republic 3
South Korea22,t China 2(5)
Dominican Republic 6. Nicaragua 1
Britain 7, Colombia 5
Puerto Rico 10, Israel 0(8)
United States 12, Canada 1(7)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S NIT

TUESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Hostra 88, Rutgers 86 (OT)
Michigan 90, Toledo 80
UAB 88, Southern Mississippi 60
Vanderbilt 71, Yale 62
Liberty 62, Villanova 57
Wash. St. (17-16) vs. E. Wash. (22-10), late
Wisc. (17-14) vs. Bradley (25-9), late
Colo. (17-16) vs. Seton Hall (17-15), late

WEDNESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Clemson (23-10) vs. Morehead State (21-11), 6p.m.
Ok. St. (18-15) vs. Yngstwn St. (24-9), 6 p.m.
Ore. (19-14) vs. UC Irvine (23-11), 10 p.m.
Florida (16-16) vs. UCF (18-14), 6p.m.
Cincinnati (21-12) vs. Va. Tech (19-14), 8 p.m.
N. Texas (26-7) vs. Alcorn St. (18-13), 7 p.m.
N. Mex. (22-11) vs. Utah Vall. St. (25-8), 9 p.m.
Sam Hou.(25-7) vs. Santa Clara (23-9), 8 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL IINVITATIONAL

SATURDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Ind. St. (22-12) vs. SC-Upstate (16-15), 10 a.m.
S. Utah (22-12) vs. N. Ala. (18-14), 12:30 p.m.
San Jose St. (20-13) vs. S. Ind. (16-16), 3 p.m.
Charlotte (18-14) vs. W. Carolina (18-15), 5:30 p.m.
SUNDAY'S FIRST ROUND
E. Ky (20-13) vs. Clev. St. (21-13), 10 a.m.
Duquesne (20-12) vs. Rice (18-15), 12:30 p.m.
Tarleton (17-16) vs. Radford (19-14), 3 p.m.
Stetson (17-13) vs. Milw. (21-11), 5:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S NIT

WEDNESDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Syracuse (18-12) vs. Kent St. (21-10), 6 p.m.
Nebraska (16-14) vs. Mo. St. (20-11), 6 p.m.
THURSDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Wake Forest (16-16) vs. Morgan State (17-11), 5 p.m.
N. Iowa (22-9) vs. Colo. St. (20-11), 6 p.m.
Harvard (17-11) vs. Towson (21-11), 6 p.m.
Missouri (17-13) vs. Illinois St. (24-8), 7 p.m.
Set. Hall (18-14) vs. St Joseph's (20-10), 6 p.m.
Clemson (17-15) vs. High Point (17-14), 6 p.m.
SFA (26-6) vs. Texas St. (23-9), 6:30 p.m.
Fordham (18-12) vs. Drexel (21-9), 6 p.m.
Arkansas (21-12) vs. La. Tech (19-12), 7 p.m.
San Diego (17-13) vs. LBSU (23-9), 8 p.m.
Texas Tech (18-14) vs. UTEP (20-11), 6 p.m.
Bowl. Green (27-6) vs. Liberty (24-8), 5 p.m.
Kan. St. (17-16) vs. Wichita St. (18-14), 6 p.m.
SMU (16-12) vs. UALR (21-10), 7 p.m.
Green Bay (27-5) vs. Niagara (18-12), 7 p.m.
Wash. (15-14) vs. San Fran. (19-12), 9 p.m.
Memphis (20-10) vs. Jackson St. (21-9), 7 p.m.
N. Mex. (20-12) vs. N. Arizona (21-13), 8 p.m.
Richmond (20-10) vs. Penn (17-11), 5 p.m.
Ball St. (25-8) vs. Belmont (23-11), 5:30 p.m.
Florida (16-14) vs. Wofford (22-9), 5 p.m.
FRIDAY'S FIRST ROUND
Auburn (15-14) vs. Tulane (18-13), 7 p.m.
Oregon (17-14) vs. N. Dak. St. (18-11), 9 p.m.
BYU (16-16) vs. Rice (22-8), 8 p.m.
Kansas (19-11) vs. W. Ky. (19-13), 5 p.m.
San Dgo St. (23-10) vs. UC Irvine (24-6), 7 p.m.
Columbia (23-5) vs. FDU (24-7), 6 p.m.
Wyo. (22-10) vs. TX A&M-CC (19-11), 7:30 p.m.
Rh. Island (24-6) vs. Boston U. (24-8), 5 p.m.
UMass (26-6) vs. Albany (NY) (22-11), 6 p.m.

WBI

FRIDAY'S FIRST ROUND
ETSU (23-9) vs. FIU (12-18), Noon
N. Mex. St. (16-16) vs. UIC (18-15), 1:30 p.m.
Cal Bapti. (19-13) vs. N. Dak. (18-11), 4 p.m.
Ga. So. (20-8) vs. N. Illinois (16-14), 6:30 p.m.

MEN'S AP ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

PPG RPG APG FG% FT% (1ST, VT)

FIRST TEAM
Zach Edey, Purdue: 7-4, 305, Jr.
22.3 12.8 1.5 .608 .736 (58, 290)
Jalen Wilson, Kansas: 6-8, 225, RS jr.
20.1 8.4 2.3 .425 .796 (47, 264)
Trayce Jackson-Davis, Indiana: 6-9, 245, sr.
20.8 10.9 4.1 .579 .686 (44, 258)
Marcus Sasser, Houston: 6-2, 195, sr.
17.1 2.8 3.2 .439 .840 (33, 235)
Brandon Miller, Alabama: 6-9, 200, fr.
19.6 8.3 2.1 .451 .866 (35, 227)

SECOND TEAM
Jaime Jaquez Jr., UCLA: 6-7, 225, sr..
17.3 8.1 2.3 .474 .773 (27, 220)
Drew Timme, Gonzaga: 6-10, 235, Sr.
20.9 7.3 3.2 .643 .636 (22, 206)
Azuolas Tubelis, Arizona: 6-11, 245, Jr.
19.8 9.3 2.0 .575 .764 (6, 165)
Jalen Pickett, Penn State: 6-4, 209, Sr.
17.9 7.3 6.7 .516 .773 (8, 115)
Oscar Tshiebwe, Kentucky: 6-9, 260, Sr.
16.5 13.1 1.6 .563 .723 (2, 106)

THIRD TEAM
Markquis Nowell, Kansas St: 5-8, 160, sr,
16.8 3.5 7.6 .377 .885 (2, 89)
Tyler Kolek, Marquette: 6-3, 190, jr.
13.3 4.2 7.7 .483 .807 (1, 81)
Armando Bacot, N. Carolina: 6-11, 235, sr.
15.9 10.4 1.4 .554 .665 (1, 47)
Keyontae Johnson, Kansas St.: 6-6, 230, sr.
17.7 7.0 2.2 .518 .713 (0, 45)
Kris Murray, Iowa: 6-8, 220, jr.
20.4 7.9 2.0 .484 .737 (1, 44)
(1ST, VT-1st place votes, total votes)
HONORABLE MENTION (alpha order, players appearing on multiple ballots)
Max Abmas, Oral Roberts; Tyree Appleby, Wake Forest; Souley Boum, Xavier; Tyger Campbell, UCLA; Marcus Carr, Texas; Yuri Collins, St. Louis; Antoine Davis, Detroit Mercy; Kendric Davis, Memphis, Hunter Dickinson, Michigan; Kyle Filipowski, Duke; Adam Flagler, Baylor; Ryan Falkbrenner, Creighton; Darius McGhee, Liberty; Mike Miles Jr., TCU; Adama Sanogo, Connecticut; Wade Taylor IV, Texas A&M; Isaiah Wong, Miami;

ODDS

NBA			WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Cleveland	off	(off)	Philadelphia
at Miami	3½	(220)	Memphis
Boston	4	(233½)	at Minnesota
Sacramento	1	(240)	at Chicago
at Houston	off	(off)	LA Lakers
at San Antonio	off	(off)	Dallas
at LA Clippers	2½	(235)	Golden State

NHL			WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**	**LINE**
at Washington	-132	Buffalo	+110
at Toronto	-150	Colorado	+125
Minnesota	-160	at St. Louis	+132
NY Islanders	-196	at Anaheim	+162

COLLEGE BASKETBALL		WEDNESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**
at Texas Southern	2½	Fairleigh Dickinson
at Florida	2½	UCF
at Clemson	15½	Morehead State
at Oklahoma State	5½	Youngstown State
at North Texas	16½	Alcorn State
at Cincinnati	5½	Virginia Tech
Santa Clara	4½	at Sam Houston
at Arizona State	2½	Nevada
at New Mexico	5½	Utah Valley
at Oregon	8½	UC Irvine
		THURSDAY
West Virginia	2	Maryland
Alabama	21	Texas A&M-CC
Houston	19½	No. Kentucky
Auburn	1	Iowa
Virginia	5½	Furman
Texas A&M	3½	Penn State
Texas	13½	Colgate
Kansas	21½	Howard
Arkansas	2	Illinois
Duke	6½	Oral Roberts
Utah State	1½	Missouri
Arizona	14½	Princeton
San Diego St.	5	Coll. Charleston
Northwestern	1½	Boise State
Tennessee	11	La-Lafayette
UCLA	17½	NC Ashville
		FRIDAY
Memphis	21	Florida Atlantic
Michigan State	1½	USC
Marquette	11	Vermont
Miami	2	Drake
Indiana	4	Kent State
St. Mayr's (Cal)	4	VCU
UConn	9½	Iona
Xavier	11½	Kennesaw State
Kentucky	4	Providence
Kansas State	8½	Montana State
Creighton	5½	NC State
Baylor	10½	UC Santa Barbara
Gonzaga	15½	Grand Canyon
		SATURDAY
Indiana State	11	SC-UpState
Southern Utah	8	No. Alabama
San Jose State	10½	Southern Indiana
Charlotte	7	Western Carolina

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

TENNIS

ATP/WTA BNP PARIBAS OPEN

Tuesday at Indian Wells Tennis Center, Indian Wells, Calif., outdoors-hard

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 16
#1Carlos Alcaraz vs. Jack Draper, late
#4Taylor Fritz d. Marton Fucsovics, 6-4, 6-3.
#5Daniil Medvedev d. #12Alexander Zverev, 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 7-5.
#8Felix Auger-Aliassime vs. #17Tommy Paul, late
#10Cameron Norrie d. #6Andrey Rublev, 6-2, 6-4.
#11Jannik Sinner vs. Stan Wawrinka, late
#14Frances Tiafoe d. Alejandro Tabilo, 6-4, 6-4.
#23Alejandro Davidovich Fokina d. Cristian Garin, 6-3, 6-4.
LATE MONDAY, ROUND OF 32
#1Calros Alcaraz d. #31Tallon Griekspoor, 7-6(4), 6-3.
Jack Draper d. Andy Murray, 7-6(6), 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
#1Iga Swiatek vs. Emma Raducanu, late
#2Aryna Sabalenka d. Barbora Krejcikova, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.
#15Petra Kvitova d. #3Jessica Pegula, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(11).
#5Caroline Garcia vs. Sorana Cirstea, late
#6Coco Gauff d. Rebecca Peterson, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.
#7Maria Sakkari d. #17Karolina Pliskova, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.
#10Elena Rybakina d. Varvara Gracheva, 6-3, 6-0.
Karolina Muchova d. Marketa Vondrousova, 6-4, 6-7(2), 6-4.
LATE MONDAY, ROUND OF 32
#1Iga Swiatek d. #32Bianca Andreescu, 6-3, 7-6(1).
Varvara Gracheva d. #8Daria Kasatkina, 6-4, 6-4.

XFL FOOTBALL

NORTH	W	L	PCT	PF	PA
DC	3	0	1.000	74	52
St. Louis	2	1	.667	66	67
Seattle	1	2	.333	66	68
Vegas	0	3	.000	52	70
SOUTH	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**PF**	**PA**
Houston	3	0	1.000	78	39
Arlington	2	1	.667	46	52
San Antonio	1	2	.333	58	52
Orlando	0	3	.000	33	73

WEEK 5

THURSDAY'S GAME
Houston at Seattle, 9:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
DC at St. Louis, 6p.m.
Orlando at Vegas, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAME
Arlington at San Antonio, 9p.m.

WEEK 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Seattle at Orlando, noon
St. Louis at Vegas, 6p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
San Antonio at Arlington, 2p.m.

MONDAY'S MARCH 27
Houston at DC, 6p.m.

GOLF

TOUR MONEY LEADERS

PGA TOUR	
Scottie Scheffler	$10,486,495
Jon Rahm	$9,934,779
Max Homa	$7,344,412
Kurt Kitayama	$5,048,388
Tyrrell Hatton	$4,473,894
Keegan Bradley	$4,263,524
Rory McIlroy	$3,913,286
Tom Hoge	$3,731,656
Collin Morikawa	$3,470,734
Patrick Cantlay	$3,466,400
Viktor Hovland	$3,345,697
Tony Finau	$3,231,192
Jason Day	$3,218,333
Sahith Theegala	$3,139,390
Adam Svensson	$3,098,261
Nick Taylor	$3,048,373
Seamus Power	$2,892,921
Tom Kim	$2,863,005
Sungjae Im	$2,821,129
Justin Rose	$2,791,740
Rickie Fowler	$2,783,138
Chris Kirk	$2,708,778
Harris English	$2,682,653
Si Woo Kim	$2,315,142
Brian Harman	$2,147,778
Taylor Montgomery	$2,079,460
Russell Henley	$2,076,922
Jordan Spieth	$2,033,960
Mackenzie Hughes	$2,021,799
Keith Mitchell	$1,907,322
Andrew Putnam	$1,894,018
Xander Schauffele	$1,863,972
Hideki Matsuyama	$1,797,738
Justin Thomas	$1,777,858
Brendon Todd	$1,720,861
Adam Hadwin	$1,685,683
Denny McCarthy	$1,646,398
Danny Willett	$1,643,146
Hayden Buckley	$1,629,364
Thomas Detry	$1,607,775
David Lingmerth	$1,589,807
Justin Suh	$1,540,050
Sepp Straka	$1,529,723
Sam Burns	$1,506,916
Brandon Wu	$1,490,138
Ben Taylor	$1,489,760
Wyndham Clark	$1,478,199
Davis Thompson	$1,442,218
Eric Cole	$1,419,136
Will Zalatoris	$1,407,280
Ben Griffin	$1,384,766

PGA CHAMPIONS SCHWAB CUP	
Steve Stricker	$544,500
David Toms	$434,400
Bernhard Langer	$358,723
Stephen Ames	$346,534
Mark Hensby	$343,777
Robert Karlsson	$336,550
Ken Tanigawa	$209,461
Mike Weir	$201,550
Alex Cejka	$201,400
Steven Alker	$191,000
Brett Quigley	$185,836
Jerry Kelly	$165,556
Miguel Angel Jiménez	$164,200
Doug Barron	$154,277
Gene Sauers	$153,840
Darren Clarke	$152,686
Dicky Pride	$151,590
Paul Stankowski	$148,790
Retief Goosen	$144,360
Padraig Harrington	$144,000
Ernie Els	$139,780
Lee Janzen	$137,400
Richard Green	$137,144
Justin Leonard	$136,784
Paul Broadhurst	$125,823

LIV GOLF	INDIV	TEAM	TOT
Charles Howell III	$4m	750k	4.75m
Peter Uihlein	2m	375k	2.5m
Paul Casey	1.05m	750k	1.8m
Branden Grace	1.5m	--	1.5m
Pat Perez	610k	375k	985k
Bryson DeChambeau	167k	750k	917k
Anirban Lahiri	151k	750k	901k
Cameron Smith	887k	--	887k
Brendan Steele	887k	--	887k
Sebastián Muñoz	610k	125k	735k
Matthew Wolff	610k	--	610k
Carlos Ortiz	610k	--	610k
Joaquin Niemann	405k	125k	530k
Dustin Johnson	144k	375k	519k
Patrick Reed	139k	375k	514k
Ian Poulter	405k	--	405k
Graeme McDowell	405k	--	405k
Talor Gooch	405k	--	405k
Mito Pereira	237k	125k	362k
David Puig	139k	125k	264k
Scott Vincent	$237k	--	237k
Abraham Ancer	237k	--	237k
Marc Leishman	$237k	--	237k
Jason Kokrak	$220k	--	220k
Kevin Na	$184k	--	184k
Cameron Tringale	$184k	--	184k
Dean Burmester	$184k	--	184k
Matt Jones	$167k	--	167k
Sergio Garcia	$167k	--	167k
Henrik Stenson	$167k	--	167k

earnings listed in m-millions and k-thousands; livgolf.com

Purdue center Zach Edey helped give the Big Ten a third straight year with multiple first-team All-America picks, joined by Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis. **AP**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big Ten again has multiple players on All-America Team

Big men Edey, Jackson-Davis help conference dominate honors

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

Purdue's Zach Edey and Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis have given the Big Ten Conference a third straight year with multiple first-team Associated Press All-America picks, while Kansas had a second straight first-teamer in Jalen Wilson.

The 7-foot-4, 305-pound Edey appeared on all 58 ballots as a first-team selection from AP Top 25 voters as the lone unanimous pick in results released Tuesday.

The selections of the Boilermakers' Edey and the Hoosiers' Jackson-Davis came a year after the Big Ten had three first-team picks. And it gave the league seven through the last three seasons; no other league has more than three.

The Big Ten has had at least one first-teamer for five straight years and eight of the last nine.

Houston's Marcus Sasser and Alabama's Brandon Miller joined Edey and Wilson on the first team in representing each of the NCAA Tournament's No. 1 seeds.

Edey has commanded the national spotlight all year. The Big Ten player of the year ranks sixth nationally in scoring (22.3), second in rebounding (12.8) and first in double-doubles (26).

Jackson-Davis, a 6-9 fourth-year forward, is Indiana's first first-team selection since Victor Oladipo in 2013. He's averaging 20.8 points and 10.9 rebounds while taking a leap with his passing (4.1 assists, up from 1.9 last year).

Wilson, a 6-8 fourth-year forward, was a returning complementary starter from last year's NCAA title run. He thrived in an expanded role, becoming Big 12 player of the year and nearly doubling his scoring average (20.1, up from 11.1) to go with 8.4 rebounds.

It marked the fourth time in seven seasons that the Jayhawks had a first-team pick going back to national player of the year Frank Mason III in 2017.

Sasser, a 6-2 senior, was a starter on the Cougars' Final Four team two years ago and is the star of another title threat this year. He's averaging 17.1 points as the program's first first-team selection since Hakeem Olajuwon in 1984 during the "Phi Slama Jama" era.

Miller, a 6-9 freshman, was a McDonald's All-American who became an immediate star on the way to being named the Southeastern Conference player of the year. He's averaging 19.6 points and 8.3 rebounds for the tournament's No. 1 overall seed.

Miller has been involved in a murder case that has overshadowed the Crimson Tide's successful run, leading to capital murder charges against former Alabama player Darius Miles and another man for the January shooting death of 23-year-old Jamea Harris.

First Four

Texas A&M-CC 75, Southeast Missouri State 71: The Islanders connected on 27 of 35 free throws as the Redhawks committed a First Four-record 31 personal fouls to advance to face top overall seed Alabama. Jalen Jackson scored 22 points — 14 of them at the foul line — to pace the Islanders (24-10). Chris Harris led the Redhawks (19-17) with 23 points.

IN BRIEF

Raiders, receiver Meyers agree on a 3-year deal

Associated Press

The Las Vegas Raiders and wide receiver Jakobi Meyers have agreed on a $33 million, three-year deal, a person familiar with the contract told The Associated Press.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be announced until Wednesday, said it includes $21 million in guaranteed money.

Meyers spent his first four seasons with New England. He has averaged 70 catches and 800 yards receiving over the past three seasons.

Meyers reunites with Raiders coach Josh McDaniels, who was previously New England's offensive coordinator.

■ Setting up a competition at quarterback, the Atlanta Falcons have agreed to terms with Taylor Heinicke on a two-year contract worth up to $20 million. For Heinicke, it's a homecoming. He was born in Lawrenceville and played a=l in suburban Atlanta.

■ The Chicago Bears have added help on the defensive line, agreeing to a deal with former Tennessee Titans defensive end DeMarcus Walker. The Bears agreed to a two-year contract extension with fullback Khari Blasingame through the 2025 season and a one-year extension with long snapper Patrick Scales on Tuesday.

■ Los Angeles Chargers running back Austin Ekeler could be on his way out. Ekeler's agent, Cameron Weiss, said on Tuesday that the team has given Ekeler permission to seek a trade after both sides could not agree on a contract extension.

■ In other moves, the Lions picked up former Bears running back David Montgomery, the Panthers signed QB Andy Dalton to a two-year deal, and the Colts plan to release QB Matt Ryan for cap space.

College basketball: Damon Stoudamire managed to get one word out — "Wow!" — before he was overcome with emotion. The longtime NBA guard was formally introduced as the Yellow Jackets' coach on Tuesday, capping a whirlwind search that took only three days after Josh Pastner was fired following another losing season.

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Álvarez to take on Britain's Ryder

Canelo Álvarez will return to the ring May 6 in his native Guadalajara, Mexico, to defend his four super middleweight title belts against Britain's John Ryder. Promoter Matchroom Boxing announced Álvarez's next fight Tuesday. The bout will be at Akron Stadium, the home of Mexican soccer club Chivas. Álvarez (58-2-2, 39 KOs) is fighting for the first time since he won the final bout in his famed trilogy with Gennady Golovkin by unanimous decision last September. Álvarez also will be fighting one year after his one-sided upset loss to Dmitry Bivol in a light heavyweight bout. The 32-year-old Álvarez is returning on Cinco de Mayo weekend to fight in Mexico for the first time in 11 ½ years. Álvarez, who lives in San Diego for most of the year, has staged his last 22 bouts in the U.S. He hasn't fought in Mexico since beating Kermit Cintron in Mexico City in November 2011, and he hasn't fought in his hometown since June 2011. Álvarez had surgery on his left hand late last year, but he has recovered quickly enough to take on his next challenge.

Smart defends Georgia program

Georgia coach Kirby Smart insists he has not lost control of a program that has produced back-to-back national championships but has been rocked by offseason arrests and a car crash that claimed the lives of a player and a recruiting staffer. "There's no lack of control for our program," Smart said Tuesday before the Bulldogs' first spring practice. "… Our guys do make mistakes. That historically is probably going to happen when you have 18 to 22 year-olds. Our job as coaches is to prevent that from happening and that starts with me and you do it with how you educate your players and how you discipline your players and we'll continue to do that at a high standard." Wednesday's pro day on campus for NFL general managers and coaches will feature defensive tackle Jalen Carter, who is regarded as one of the top picks in the NFL draft on April 27. Carter's draft outlook has been potentially clouded by misdemeanor charges of racing and reckless driving in relation to the Jan. 15 crash that killed teammate Devin Willock and a recruiting staffer, 24-year-old Chandler LeCroy.

Ruling bodies take aim at golf balls

Golf's ruling bodies are taking aim at the golf ball with a proposal Tuesday that give tours the option to require a ball that goes about 15 yards shorter for the biggest hitters. The U.S. Golf Association and Royal & Ancient Golf proposed a "Model Local Rule" that would take effect in January 2026. Still to come is five months of feedback, and most critical to the process is whether the PGA Tour and other top circuits go along with it. The decision comes from the "Distance Insights Project" that was released in 2020 and suggested that a steady increase in distance — with average gins of about 30 yards by PGA Tour players in the last 25 years — was not good for the game. "Not doing something is borderline irresponsible," Mike Whan, CEO of the USGA, said during a video conference call Tuesday. The Overall Distance Standard was created in 1976 to indicate potential distance of drivers by the longest hitters. It was updated in 2004 to change the swing speed in the test from 109 mph to 120 mph, while raising the maximum distance to 320 yards. The new proposal is to test swing speeds at 127 mph while leaving the maximum distance the same.

— Associated Press

Alabama coach Nate Oats kept the Tide steady through a trying season. **CARLY MACKLER/GETTY**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Tide's ebbs and flows

Oats has guided Alabama through its best — and most controversial — year

By John Zenor
Associated Press

Nate Oats is steering Alabama through the best and most scrutinized season in Crimson Tide history.

The former high school coach and math teacher seems to have found the right equation for success on the court, twice cutting down nets to celebrate titles and leading the Crimson Tide to the No. 1 overall NCAA Tournament seed.

Oats' biggest challenges and most-questioned decisions have come off the court, where critics have piled on even as the wins piled up.

There's no coaching handbook on how to handle one of your players getting charged with capital murder in midseason while two others were involved, including one of college basketball's biggest stars in AP All-America freshman Brandon Miller.

Oats is not second-guessing his decision to keep playing Miller and Jaden Bradley.

"The fact never changed that we were going by what the police told us, that they were cooperating witnesses," the 48-year-old Oats told Associated Press in an interview this week "So based on everything we know — and we're not investigators, we're going on what the professional investigators have told us — Brandon and Jaden never broke any laws. They never violated any school policies. They're fully cooperating witnesses and have been truthful from the minute they met with the police that day. So I'm not sure what they would have been suspended for."

It's a decision that has drawn criticism while the Tide marched to Southeastern Conference regular season and tournament titles and the program's first No. 1 seed. It's become a major story line even as Oats has taken the Tide to unprecedented heights.

Miller went to pick up Darius Miles, who had left his gun in the back seat of the Tide forward's vehicle and sent a text asking him to bring him the weapon early on Jan. 15. Another man, Michael Davis, is accused of firing the shot that killed 23-year-old mother Jamea Harris.

Miller, whose vehicle was struck with bullets, received the text while en route and never touched the gun or knew that it was going to be used for criminal activity, his attorney said.

Oats said he has made it "crystal clear" to his team that the only victims were Harris and her family.

"That's it. That's where our prayers need to be. This is sad, awful," Oats, who described himself as "torn up," said he told the players.

He said he has been stung by criticism and apologized multiple times for a comment saying Miller was in the "wrong spot at the right time" shortly after police testimony tied Miller and Bradley to the scene. And again for not halting Miller's pre-game patdown ritual with a teammate.

"Of course it bothers me," he said. "I'm human, and nobody likes to hear this stuff said about me knowing that it's not who I am."

Oats has climbed the ranks, from leading Romulus High School in suburban Detroit to its first state title in 27 years to a successful run at Buffalo to the top of the college basketball world. All in the span of a decade. Oats received a new six-year, $30 million contract in February.

He has turned Alabama into a basketball powerhouse alongside Nick Saban's juggernaut football program, which has won six national titles since 2009. Never has the Tide had a team that appeared better equipped for hoops glory.

Miller is a projected top five NBA draft pick. Fellow freshmen Noah Clowney and Bradley have complemented players like veteran guard Jahvon Quinerly, center Charles Bediako and transfer Mark Sears.

Oats, a hoops junkie who got a paper route in the fifth grade so he could eventually buy a TV to watch college games, has built the championship-caliber roster and a team that's fun to watch with its tempo, athleticism and barrage of 3-pointers.

In Thursday's e-edition: NCAA Tournament preview

Check out our 8-page, digital-only section previewing the men's and women's tournaments, including region breakdowns, players to watch and more. It appears as a bonus at the end of the daily e-edition.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Plenty of obstacles to a bigger tourney

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The number was supposed to be 96.

The last time the NCAA seriously considered expanding the men's Division I basketball tournament a plan emerged to add 16 more games and 32 more participants to grow that symmetrically satisfying 64-team bracket.

The backlash that followed from college sports administrators back in 2010 was strong enough to scrap the idea. A modest expansion to 68 teams was approved in 2011.

"At the end of the day, membership sentiment was that they were not unified in wanting to expand the tournament beyond 68," recalled Greg Shaheen, the former NCAA vice president for championships.

For the first time in more than a decade, NCAA and college sports leaders are committed to a serious examination of increasing the number of teams allowed to compete in an event that has become one of the crown jewels of American sports.

The mere suggestion of messing with March Madness, which generates hundreds of millions in revenue annually for the NCAA and its 1,100 member schools, is still met with skepticism by a lot of basketball fans and some within college sports.

Making significant changes in the near term will be difficult, if not impossible. There are logistical, financial and even political obstacles.

"That's not to say we won't give it it's appropriate level of analysis and consideration, but there's a lot of factors to be considered," said Dan Gavitt, the NCAA vice president for basketball.

Chatter about tournament expansion started more than a year ago, when the NCAA assembled a committee to look into the how Division I, the highest level of college sports, operates.

After more than a year of work, the committee's final recommendations included expanding fields for all NCAA championship — not just basketball —- with a high level of participation to accommodate 25% of competing schools.

The 25% recommendation is just that. Whether it is implemented will be a decision made on a sport-by-sport basis. Committee co-chair Greg Sankey, the Southeastern Conference commissioner, has tried to avoid being seen as pushing for expansion while also pointing out some of the reasons to do so.

"You have teams that have been the 11-seed in the First Four, make it to the Final Four, the Elite Eight, the Sweet 16," Sankey said in January. "We're excluding highly competitive teams, because of the structure. Now what does that expansion or those opportunities look like? I have ideas, but I'm not going to throw them out now since I don't want to make headlines."

Current selection protocols provide an automatic berth to the champions of all 32 Division I conferences, plus 36 at-large bids. Those are mostly scooped up by the six strongest and richest conferences: the Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern.

The Big Six secured 31 of 36 at-large bids on Sunday.

Along with prestige and opportunities to advance, bids have monetary value. The NCAA distributes revenue to conferences based on tournament performance, with conferences earning a unit for each round one of its teams advances.

In 2023, a basketball unit will be worth approximately $2.04 million over the six-year period in which it is paid out. So if you're the SEC or Big Ten, each with eight teams in the tourney, seeing all of them advance a round means more than $16 million.

Coaches, whose job security often depends on making the tournament, have typically supported a bigger field.

"Since I coached at Valparaiso University I always was in favor of tournament expansion, because I thought there's enough quality teams," Baylor coach Scott Drew said.

Drew's magic number is 128, which would add another full round to the tournament and include more than one-third of the 358 Division I basketball teams.

Tom Burnett, the former Southland Conference commissioner who also served a stint as the head of the men's basketball selection committee, said he was open-minded but cautious when the topic of tournament expansion would come up.

"If there were a practical expansion plan that addressed whatever needs to be addressed — except here's where I draw the line: It can't expand because my team didn't get in," Burnett said. There will always be teams that feel slighted if they don't get in.

There is some concern outside the power conferences that expansion will result in even more at-large bids going to middle-of-the-pack teams from those leagues with strong mid-major teams still getting squeezed out.

"If you've got a seventh- or eighth-place team in over a regular-season champion in a conference, from our perspective, that's not the way to expand," said Northern Arizona athletic director Mike Marlow, whose team made an unlikely run to the Big Sky Tournament championship game before losing.

If the Lumberjacks (12-23) had beaten Montana State (25-9) to win the conference, the Bobcats — with 13 more wins than NAU — would be heading to the NIT instead of a first-round NCAA game against Kansas State on Friday.

Chicago Tribune

FOOD & HEALTH

Chef Debbie Gold prepared steak frites at the new LeTour French and Moroccan restaurant on Nov. 7 in Evanston. **ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

REVIEW LETOUR ★★★

‘Unconventionally French’

At LeTour, ‘perfect’ steak frites and French-Moroccan fare are the Gold standard

By Louisa Chu | Chicago Tribune

When I lived in Paris, a cousin called on his way out of the French capital with a Chinese tour group. He wanted to meet up that night after they visited Versailles, Monet’s garden and the Louvre, all on the same day.

A few years later, when I was location scouting across the south of France, that memory flickered as I rushed from one historic village to another, grabbing local specialties, from ratatouille to pissaladière, whenever I could.

When you find your way to the new French-inspired restaurant by restaurateur Amy Morton and chef Debbie Gold, you’ll see a menu that covers a lot of the country, along with a detour to Morocco, which might have you wondering if they’ve gone too far.

LeTour not only road trips around France, but also travels by way of the American Midwest. Morton and Gold, luckily for us, have prepared for this journey their entire lives. All you have to do is sit back and enjoy everything they’ll unpack, from buttery Burgundy escargots to spicy southern mussels, along with the personal stories behind them.

You might start with the tagine of chicken, which has become their most popular dish, with tenderly braised legs, breasts and thighs.

“The beautiful, very fresh, green olives are super important, and the preserved lemon,” said Morton, owner and operator of the restaurant that opened in November. “The triad was meant to remember

Turn to LeTour, *Page 3*

COLUMN

Meat Moot Smoking crosses Turkish with Texas for an intriguing take on barbecue

By Nick Kindelsperger
Chicago Tribune

When chatting with food historian Adrian Miller about the Texas-style barbecue boom in suburban Chicago, he casually remarked that the style wasn’t just popular around the United States, but overseas as well.

“Texas barbecue is even big in the Middle East,” Miller said. “It’s just the ‘it’ barbecue right now.”

I remembered that exchange while visiting Meat Moot Smoking, a Turkish chain that recently opened its first domestic location in suburban Burbank. Considering it has 15 outlets scattered across the Middle East, there are definitely many influences from that region on the menu.

But Hasan Musleh, owner of the Burbank outlet, was honest about the Lone Star State’s influence. “It’s actually inspired by Texas-style, but we tweaked it with our spices,” Musleh said.

So what does Texas-style barbecue via the Middle East taste like? Certainly, unlike any smoked meat joint in the state.

The Meat Moot Smoking beef special is served with accompanying sides in Burbank. It’s the first domestic location for the Turkish smoked meat chain. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Meat Moot is halal-certified, so you won’t find any pork, but you will find a range of beef, including the king of Texas-style barbecue, brisket. But you’ll also find gargantuan beef ribs and beef shank, along with plenty of lamb (shank, neck, ribs and shoulder). Like in Texas, all the meat is weighed and sliced to order, and then placed on a platter.

Musleh spent time in Turkey honing his cooking process, and he said each cut gets a special marinade before spending a long time in the smoker. “We smoke

Turn to Barbecue, *Page 5*

Chicagoland St. Patrick’s Day specials, from free corned beef to green beer

By Samantha Nelson
Chicago Tribune

With the St. Patrick’s Day holiday falling Friday, the Windy City adores a good celebration of its Irish heritage.

Bars and restaurants are getting into the spirit by serving traditional food, hosting bashes with spectacular riverfront views and bottomless drinks, and bringing in Irish musicians and dancers. There are even over-the-top themed pop-ups and specials that go all month long.

Wear something green and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day Chi-rish style at one of these spots, listed in order of geographic location. Some parties will sell out, so plan ahead rather than test your luck.

Downtown

Bar Pendry

An Irish whiskey flight and pastrami poutine made with Irish cheddar are offered in addition to the regular menu Friday. *81 E. Wacker Place, 312-777-9000, pendry.com*

Enjoy a hearty pour of Guinness at The Gage. **THE GAGE**

Brass Tack

The restaurant within the Waldorf Astoria Chicago hotel offers specials throughout the day Friday, with wagyu corned beef hash for breakfast ($27) and truffle short rib shepherd’s pie for dinner ($24). *11 E. Walton St., 312-646-1402, brasstackchicago.com*

Turn to St. Patrick’s, *Page 4*

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Brisket or chuck can be used for a beef stew made like traditional pot roast, such as this Jewish American pot roast, with lots of onions and carrots.
JULIA GARTLAND/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

A world of *wisdom*

Beef stews from around the globe all spin a small amount of meat into a one-pot wonder

By Julia Moskin
The New York Times

Beef stew may be considered old-fashioned, but it remains one of the world's great dishes — and one of the easiest. Since realizing that I could call it "wine-braised short ribs" and serve it at a dinner party, I have made beef stew in whatever form I find it: rendang and chili, stracotto and birria, daube and galbijjim.

For all of their differences, each of these versions from around the globe perform the same feat, spinning a small amount of meat into a complex, flavorful one-pot wonder. Making — and eating — them again and again has helped me appreciate the wisdom they contain about what works best.

It turns out that a few basic decisions can generate a nearly foolproof formula for beef stew.

Start with leaner meat

For a rich, succulent stew, resist the instinct to buy the gorgeously marbled piece of meat you would want for a steak or roast. Look instead for cuts with cartilage, tendons and (at least a few) bones: Chuck, brisket, oxtails, cheeks and shin are ideal. What grocery stores label as "stew beef" is less succulent but perfectly fine, especially in large pieces like 2-inch chunks; with smaller pieces, keep the heat especially gentle to prevent them from drying out.

Don't forget the alliums

Beef always gets along with alliums: scallions and leeks, garlic and onions. The last two are nearly the only seasonings in the Jewish American pot roast.

Floyd Cardoz created this stew of short ribs and cabbage braised with peanuts and anchovies from his memories of a Filipino kare-kare.

Add brightness and depth

Beef stew can take nearly any seasoning you throw at it, but the most delicious ones have lots of fresh aromatics and spices that balance out the heaviness of meat.

When trying a new recipe, I lean toward ingredients like tomato paste, which adds sweet and tart flavors. Just as Hungarian goulash is transformed by paprika, Italian brasatos benefit from the rasp of red wine, and some Southeast Asian and Caribbean stews are lifted by the bittersweet edge of caramelized brown sugar.

Don't feel you have to brown

Browning the meat is entirely optional and far from universally practiced. Browning does generate caramelized flavors, but that's not a priority for everyone. Boiling produces a richer cooking liquid, eliminating the need for stock or bouillon cubes, Mexican food writer and historian Pati Jinich said.

Baking can be better

Ever since I discovered Amanda Hesser's recipe for Roman oxtails, I have baked all my stews in a covered pot instead of simmering them uncovered on the stove. The heat comes from all directions, instead of just the bottom, which eliminates the need for frequent stirring.

In an oven set at 250 or 275 degrees, a heavy pot behaves like a slow cooker. When the pot is covered, your ingredients should not be swimming in liquid but wading, waist deep. A good rule is to cover the aromatics and vegetables, but leave an inch of meat sticking out above the surface.

JEWISH AMERICAN POT ROAST

This brisket recipe came from Mimi Sheraton, the New York Times' first restaurant critic and author of a memoir-cookbook, "From My Mother's Kitchen: Recipes and Reminiscences" (HarperCollins, 1979), about growing up in Brooklyn in the 1930s. It demands minimal preparation and limited ingredients — little more than onions and garlic — but the low-and-slow cooking make it extraordinarily complex and delicious. Although the brisket (breast) is traditional, the same recipe works beautifully with any stew cut, such as chuck, oxtail or short ribs. Serve over mashed potatoes or egg noodles, or with boiled potatoes, sprinkled with parsley.

Makes: 6 to 8 servings
Total time: 3 ½ hours
2 tablespoons vegetable oil (or chicken, duck or goose fat), plus more as needed
4 pounds beef chuck or brisket, in one piece (or use 4 pounds stew meat, like boneless chuck, boneless short ribs or cheeks, cut into 2-inch chunks)
2 large onions, coarsely chopped or thinly sliced
Kosher salt and black pepper
6 garlic cloves, chopped
2 teaspoons sweet paprika
1 tablespoon tomato paste (or 1 additional teaspoon paprika)
2 large carrots, peeled and cut into thick slices or chunks
¼ teaspoon dried thyme or 1 bay leaf
Mashed potatoes, cooked egg noodles or halved boiled potatoes, sprinkled with parsley, for serving

1. Heat oven to 300 degrees.

2. In a large Dutch oven, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat until it shimmers. Pat meat dry and brown on both sides, leaving it untouched until a crust forms on the bottom. Adjust the heat so that the meat sizzles enthusiastically but does not pop or scorch. When browned, remove it to a large plate.

3. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil to the pot. Add onions, sprinkle with salt and cook over medium heat, scraping the bottom of the pan. Adjust the heat and stir often, so the onions soften but do not brown, about 10 minutes. Add garlic and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until the mixture forms a soft, pale brown mass, 5 minutes more.

4. Raise heat to medium-high, add paprika and cook, stirring, until the mixture sizzles. Push onions aside and add tomato paste to the center of the pot. Cook, stirring frequently, until it's sizzling, then stir it into the onion mixture.

5. Return meat and its juices to the pot. Add carrots, thyme and enough hot water to cover the carrots and onions (do not cover the meat). Cover tightly and bake until completely fork-tender, about 3 hours, turning the meat halfway through cooking.

6. Remove pot from the oven. Remove the meat and carrots from the pot and set aside; discard the bay leaf, if using. Using a hand blender, purée the contents of the pot into a smooth gravy (or strain, then push the vegetables through a sieve and combine with the liquid). Heat the gravy through and, if necessary, simmer until thickened. Taste and adjust the seasonings with salt and pepper.

7. If using a single piece of meat, slice the meat across the grain into ¼-inch-thick slices. Return meat and carrots to the pot, nestling them into the gravy. Cover and heat through over very low heat. Serve immediately or, for the best flavor, refrigerate overnight and reheat before serving.

— Recipe from Mimi Sheraton; adapted by Julia Moskin

BRAISED SHORT RIBS WITH PEANUTS AND ANCHOVIES

This is an adaptation of the tangy, rich Filipino meat stew kare-kare, which itself is adapted from the Indian-influenced massaman curries of Southeast Asia. Indian American chef Floyd Cardoz brought it full circle when he recreated it for American home cooks in his 2016 book "Floyd Cardoz: Flavorwalla" (Artisan). It's an excellent illustration of how a great stew can fuse flavors that might seem incompatible, like peanuts, cabbage and anchovies.

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: About 3 ½ hours
1 ½ pounds boneless beef short ribs, cut into 2-inch cubes, or 2 ½ to 3 pounds bone-in ribs
Kosher salt
3 tablespoons canola oil
1 ½ teaspoons black peppercorns
1 dried chipotle chile, broken in half
2 bay leaves
1 medium onion, sliced (1 ½ cups)
4 garlic cloves, smashed
1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger, peeled and sliced into thin coins
1 small head savoy cabbage
1 cup unsalted roasted peanuts
4 anchovy fillets, minced
Steamed rice (optional), for serving

1. Season the beef with salt; set aside at room temperature for at least 20 minutes.

2. In a large stew pot, heat the oil over medium until it shimmers. Add the peppercorns, chile and bay leaves and cook, stirring, until they are fragrant and little bubbles form around the spices, about 1 minute. Add the onion, garlic and ginger and cook until the onion is translucent, stirring occasionally, 3 to 4 minutes.

3. Add the seasoned short ribs, plus 5 cups water and a pinch of salt (don't add too much here). Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat, cover and simmer until the meat is tender when pierced with a fork, 2 ½ to 3 hours.

4. While the short ribs simmer, separate the cabbage leaves and cut the ribs out of each one. Stack the leaves a few at a time and cut into 2-inch pieces. Set aside 4 cups of chopped cabbage for this dish, reserving the remainder for another use.

5. Place the peanuts in a blender with 1 ½ cups water; purée.

6. Once the meat has simmered until tender, add the anchovies to the pot, along with the 4 cups chopped cabbage and the peanut purée. Bring to a simmer, stirring to prevent sticking, and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the cabbage is tender, about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt.

7. Remove and discard the bay leaves and chipotle halves, if desired. Serve in shallow bowls, with rice if you like.

— Recipe from Floyd Cardoz; adapted by Julia Moskin

MOLE DE OLLA (BEEF STEW WITH CHILES)

Mexico has innumerable beef stews: puchero, birria, puntas al albañil. But the most universal, according to writer Pati Jinich, is mole de olla, a true one-pot dish, often made for family gatherings, with vegetables like corn, zucchini, cactus and chayote added at the last minute. If the name seems surprising, Jinich said, the word mole doesn't refer just to the famous thickened sauces of Puebla and Oaxaca, but any kind of "saucy thing." What makes mole de olla a stew and not a soup is the rich purée of roasted dried chiles that both thickens and seasons it.

Mole de olla pulls many flavors, ingredients and textures into one dish.

Makes: 6 to 8 servings
Total time: 2 ¼ hours
3 pounds beef stew meat or beef shank meat, cut into 1 ½-inch- to 2-inch chunks, with any bones added to the pot
½ white onion, plus ¾ cup finely chopped onion for garnish
1 large sprig fresh mint (10 to 12 leaves), or 2 sprigs fresh epazote or 1 tablespoon dried epazote
3 garlic cloves
3 bay leaves
Kosher salt or coarse sea salt
3 dried ancho chiles, stemmed and seeded
3 dried pasilla chiles, stemmed and seeded
1 pound (about 4) ripe tomatoes, preferably Roma tomatoes
¼ pound tomatillo (1 large), husked (see note)
2 tablespoons white sesame seeds
2 chayote squash, peeled and cubed (about 3 cups)
3 ears fresh corn, husked and cut crosswise into thirds
1 large zucchini, cubed (about 3 cups)
¾ pound green beans, trimmed and cut into about 1-inch pieces (about 2 cups)
¾ cup chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish
3 to 4 limes, quartered, for garnish

1. In a large heavy-bottomed casserole or pot, place the meat, onion half, mint, garlic, bay leaves and about 1 tablespoon salt. Cover with 8 cups of water and bring to a rolling boil over medium-high heat. Skim off any foam that rises to the surface, then reduce the heat to low or medium-low; cover and simmer for 1 hour.

2. While the mixture simmers, place the ancho and pasilla chiles in a medium bowl, cover with boiling water and let them rehydrate for 10 to 15 minutes.

3. Place the tomatoes and tomatillo in a baking dish under the broiler and cook until they are completely charred and mushy, 10 to 20 minutes.

4. In a small skillet set over medium heat, toast the sesame seeds, stirring constantly, anywhere from 1 to 2 minutes, until they start to become golden brown.

5. In a blender, place the soaked chiles and ¼ cup of their soaking liquid, plus the broiled tomatoes and tomatillos, and the toasted sesame seeds; purée until completely smooth.

6. Remove the cooked onion, mint and garlic cloves from the large casserole or pot (if some remain, it is totally fine). Pour the chile mixture in with the meat. Stir, cover again and cook for another 30 minutes.

7. Remove lid, raise heat to medium, add the cubed chayote squash and the corn and cook, partially covered, for 15 minutes. Add the zucchini and green beans and cook, partially covered, for another 10 minutes; season to taste with salt.

8. Serve in bowls, making sure that each bowl has serving of meat, corn, chayote, green beans and zucchini. Serve with finely chopped white onion, cilantro and quartered limes to dress at the table.

Note: Traditionally, this recipe uses xoconostles, which can be hard to find. Instead, tomatillos have a similar tart flavor.

— Recipe from Pati Jinich; adapted by Julia Moskin

LeTour

from Page 1

LeTour's Amy Morton, right, and Chef Debbie Gold in their restaurant on Feb. 27 in Evanston. They've known each other for more than three decades and recently opened LeTour, a French and Moroccan inspired restaurant. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

the essence of days in Morocco."

It's not quite like the chicken tagines I tasted in Marrakech, or Paris for that matter, but focused instead on melding a bright bounty of ingredients.

"I don't want to say this is a traditional Moroccan dish," said Gold, professional partner and executive chef of LeTour as well as the parent restaurant group. "It's got onion, lots of ginger, cumin, turmeric and saffron. Then there's dried apricots, the preserved lemon and the olives, so when you put it in your mouth, hopefully it's a beautiful burst of flavors."

The history between Morocco and France is long and complicated to say the least, but the origin story behind Gold's tagine started somewhere else completely.

"Amy and I went to this little restaurant in New Jersey," said the chef. "They had a chicken tagine. Amy said, 'Oh my god, I love this so much. We have to order it.' And it was OK."

"It was not even OK," Morton said, laughing.

"She just looked at me," Gold said. "And then she goes, 'I know you can do better than this.' "

As expected of any Morton restaurant, there is indeed great steak. (Late family patriarch Arnie Morton founded the steakhouse chain that still bears their name.)

LeTour's steak frites offers a meaty bavette, perfectly cooked to order then rested correctly, sliced carefully and served with a deep red wine demi-glace, plus a mound of immaculate thin and crispy fries.

LeTour began as an "unconventionally French" restaurant, with just a hint of Moroccan flavors. "Who we have emerged as is not exactly what we thought in the beginning," Morton said. "But we are modern women in Chicago, so regardless of how classic a dish is, these are our takes as we see them."

It's not just the dishes, but the restaurant itself. Instead of a classic cafe, you might imagine a midcentury modern space near the Pompidou. The curved facade with floor-to-ceiling windows opens into a cozy eclectic decor.

"One of the most important things to me about this entire project is coming full circle," Morton said. "And I think it's illustrated a thousandfold by a 360-degree space."

She and Gold first worked together in the restaurateur's southern French provincial bistro Mirador.

"It was my first restaurant," said Morton, who would leave the industry for nearly 15 years to raise her family. "It was her first chef job."

The women reunited with French food again, perhaps bolder than ever, but not just in flavor.

Burgundy snails, typically hidden in shells under garlic herb butter, have been whipped out naked on a bowl of silky mashed potatoes studded with bacon and drizzled with persillade. Your server may suggest quickly stirring them in, presumably to hide the bits whose unlovely appearance belie their deliciousness.

The brothy banger mussels, too, upend expectations of a mild-mannered moules marinières. A spectacularly unconventionally French spicy red broth bathes every shell, but the toasted bread accompaniment may steal the show. Sourdough sourced from Publican Quality Bread gets toasted two ways in a stone oven, as crackling shards and a torn wedge.

"Spanish spicy paprika adds its own unique flavor," the chef said about the dish. "But we also put a little hint of harissa in there just to bring out the spice. And then to everybody's delight or disappointment, it's got a fair share of butter, because it is French food, and that's what makes the sauce good."

The Lyonnaise salad with classic frisée greens and fried lardons tossed in a Dijon mustard vinaigrette was surprisingly under-seasoned, and a poached duck egg too cold both times I ordered.

The ratatouille, famously a dish with the power to transport even the surliest of food critics back to a time of innocence and Provençal produce, could not have been more disappointingly bland, even with my tempered expectations in the middle of winter.

The mille-feuille, however, with figs, oranges and its proverbial thousand layers of pastry and vanilla mousseline cream took this food critic to a place where pastry chefs caramelize a whisper of sugar on puff. The rare crackle is more conventionally French than you'll find in much of France now. That makes all the difference in the world.

Who is the pastry chef?

"Me," Gold said. "I could never really just stay on one side of the kitchen."

The chef doesn't mention that she trained on every station at Charlie Trotter's, before becoming the pastry chef at Everest. After Mirador, Gold became executive chef at The American in Kansas City, where she won the James Beard award for best chef in the Midwest. She also opened her own restaurant, 40 Sardines, earning a Beard nomination for best new restaurant. That's all before Gold returned to Chicago to become the opening chef at Tied House, then rejoined Morton at Found Kitchen in 2020.

The bittersweet chocolate mousse features brandied cherries the chef makes herself with fruit from Mick Klüg Farm in Michigan. Mousse is often confused with pudding. The former at its best, as Gold's is, tugs with intensity.

Tagine of chicken with preserved lemons and olives at LeTour. **ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

LeTour's Marrakesh cocktail mixes sparkling rosé with Bigallet China-China, a bittersweet orange liqueur, and Dolin sweet vermouth. It's served with a sprig of rosemary. **STACEY WESCOTT/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The wine list is primarily French with one notable exception: Sex, a provocatively named sparkling brut rosé by Mawby Vineyards and Winery, also in Michigan.

The Marrakech cocktail mixes the sparkling rosé with Bigallet China-China, a bittersweet orange liqueur, and Dolin sweet vermouth, served over an orb of ice for a drink that's effervescent and unexpectedly complex.

Also a bit complex is the name of their restaurant group, which also includes The Barn Steakhouse and Stolp Island Social."AMDP stands for Arnie Morton's Daughter's Place," Morton said. "My dad had a corporate name, which was Peter Morton's Father's Place, and it's just a little nod to him."

Her late father named the company after his oldest son, co-founder of the Hard Rock Cafe chain, who has a twin sister, Pam Morton, also in the industry.

"I have two daughters, who are now both in the industry as well," Gold said. "It's a better place than it was in the late '80s for women, but honestly, I'm not so sure how far we've moved the needle."

Meanwhile, the chef seems truly surprised at the positive reception to her menu, despite a lifetime of accolades.

"I know it tastes good to me," she said. "But to have the person try this new place in Evanston and enjoy it? That's all I need to be successful."

Morton needs a bit more.

"To me, everything has to have a meaning," she said. "How can we create without a reason behind it?"

LETOUR

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St. Patrick's

from Page 1

The Gage

Bagpipers from Fiddling Finnegans perform Friday at this contemporary restaurant in the Loop, and you can also try specials including corned beef and cabbage, fish and chips, shepherd's pie and a corned beef sandwich with Guinness-soaked Swiss cheese. *24 S. Michigan Ave., 312-372-4243, thegagechicago.com*

HUB 51

Specials offered through Friday include $8 Jameson shots, $6 green beer and a hot corned beef sandwich. *51 W. Hubbard St., 312-828-0051, hub51chicago.com*

Pierrot Gourmet

The cafe within the Peninsula Chicago offers a special Baileys Pot O' Gold dessert through Sunday made with Baileys Irish cream mousse, whiskey caramel sauce and gold chocolate nuggets. Come for lunch Friday through Sunday and you can also celebrate with Irish lamb stew or a Reuben sandwich. *108 E. Superior St., 312-337-2888, peninsula.com*

Solita Tacos & Margaritas

The restaurant is decked out in floor-to-ceiling St. Patrick's Day décor featuring rainbows, leprechauns and gold through Sunday. Book a spot for $15 and you'll be welcomed with a margarita and chips and salsa. *431 N. Wells St., 773-312-4989, solitatacos.com*

North Side and Near North Side

The Butcher's Tap

The bar offers $5 Jameson shots, corned beef specials, raffles and giveaways all day Friday. *3553 N. Southport Ave., 773-325-0123, thebutcherstap.com*

Cody's Public House

The West Lakeview bar hosts a Guinness glass giveaway and offers samples of Proper 12 and Bushmills Irish whiskey at 6 p.m. Friday along with specials including $6 Guinness pints, $5 Proper 12 and $8 Bushmills car bombs. *1658 W. Barry Ave., 773-799-8217, codyschicago.com*

Farm Bar

Co-owner Ferdia Doherty celebrates her Irish roots by serving corned beef and cabbage Friday at this Lakeview restaurant. You can also get corned beef hash for weekend brunch or a corned beef sandwich on St. Patrick's Day. *1300 W. Wellington Ave., 773-281-2599, farm-bar.com*

The Full Shilling

Come by Friday for raffles, giveaways, $5 Jameson shots and corned beef specials. *3724 N. Clark St., 773-248-3330, fullshillingpub.com*

The Green Post

The Lincoln Square bar celebrates its first St. Patrick's Day through Friday by offering a corned beef dinner, housemade fish and chips, and Guinness and Magners on draft. Come by Friday for a Magners glassware giveaway from 3-5 p.m., or to get a Reuben sandwich from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 4-10 p.m. *4749 N. Rockwell St., 773-754-0632, greenpostpub.com*

LG's Bar & Kitchen

The Old Town bar offers specials through Sunday such as $10 Irish mules, $5 mystery Irish whiskey shots, $6 Irish pints and corned beef hush puppies. *1525 N. Wells St., 312-888-9368, lgsbar.com*

Replay Lincoln Park

The pop-up bar has transformed into Paddy's Pub from "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," hosting flip cup tournaments and trivia based on the FX show at 7 p.m. Thursday. You can book an express entry spot Friday for $20, which includes two drinks. *2833 N. Sheffield Ave., 773-665-5660, replaylincolnpark.com*

Utopian Tailgate

Celebrate from 6-8 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day proper and your $10 ticket will get you a call drink or domestic beer. *1608 N. Wells St., 312-210-7799, utopiantailgate.com*

Corned Beef Osaka at Gaijin. **MISTEY NGUYEN/GAIJIN**

Lucky Charms scones at Scratchboard Kitchen. **SCRATCHBOARD KITCHEN**

Bailey's Pot O' Gold dessert from Pierrot Gourmet. **THE PENINSULA HOTEL**

The Dubliner from Hannah's Bretzel. **HANNAH'S BRETZEL**

West Side, Northwest Side and Near West Side

Flip-N-D's

This Dunning neighborhood bar will offer free corned beef, cabbage and potatoes at 5 p.m. Friday, with a complimentary Jameson tasting at 7 p.m. Drink specials include $5 Jameson shots, $6 Irish Car Bombs and $4 16-ounce Guinness pours. Giveaways and DJ music will also be included. *3215 N. Harlem Ave., 773-853-2015, facebook.com/Flipnds*

Gaijin

The Corned Beef Osaka offered through Friday puts an Irish spin on the West Loop restaurant's signature savory pancakes incorporating spicy mustard, aonori and bonito ($25). Add a flight of three Japanese whiskeys for $30-$50. *950 W. Lake St., 312-265-1348, gaijinchicago.com*

Ina Mae Tavern

Celebrate Friday with $5 Old Style drafts and $8 Bushmills Irish coffee. *1415 N. Wood St., 773-360-8320, inamaetavern.com*

Lottie's Pub

Emerald Society Bagpipers perform Friday, and specials include $5 corned beef sandwiches and $6 Guinness. *1925 W. Cortland St., 773-489-0738, lottiespub.com*

Mac's Wood Grilled

Irish-inspired specials offered through Friday include a Reuben sandwich served with housemade chips ($16), loaded potato soup with garlic bread ($9), $7 16-ounce drafts of Great Lakes Conway's Irish ale, and $6 Ryan's Irish cream shots. *1801 W. Division St., 773-782-4400, macswoodgrilled.com*

Old Irving Brewing Company

A full weekend of fun awaits, starting at noon Thursday and lasting through Sunday. Expect Irish music, plus food specials and a Lucky Linny and Irish whiskey shot special. Get a special Old Irving Brewing glass with 16-ounce pours for $10, with $5 refills until you take the glass home with you. While no tickets or reservations are required, it is recommended that customers don green. *4419 W. Montrose Ave., 773-916-6421, oldirvingbrewing.com*

Recess

Bingo Loco throws a St. Patrick's Day rave featuring DJs playing music from the '90s and '00s, dance offs and prizes including a trip to Bali from 6:30-11 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are $28. *838 W. Kinzie St., 312-801-1181, bingo-loco.com/chicago*

Tuman's Tap & Grill

Specials offered Friday include $10 corned beef sandwiches, $19 corned beef and cabbage dinners, $7 pints of Guinness and $6 shots of Paddy's Irish whiskey. *2159 W. Chicago Ave., 773-782-1400, tumanstapandgrill.com*

South Side and Near South Side

Chicago Firehouse Restaurant

Catch a performance from the Chitarra Irish Trio from 6-9 p.m. Friday while enjoying specials such as fish and chips ($28), soda bread with salted Irish butter ($5) and Irish coffee cheesecake made with Baileys Irish cream ($14). *1401 S. Michigan Ave., 312-786-1401, chicagofirehouse.com*

Old Time Tap

Along with Irish-themed specials running all month long, this Hegewisch bar will host a St. Patrick's Day party starting at 4 p.m. Friday, featuring drink specials, music and giveaways. *13501 S. Brandon Ave., 773-307-4209, facebook.com/OTThegewisch*

The Promontory

A full weekend of St. Patrick's Day festivities at this Hyde Park bar kicks off Friday with St. Pretty & Lucky, which offers free tickets for women until 10:30 p.m. and music from DJ TuneHendrixx. Shenanigans start early Saturday, with green-clad partygoers enjoying music from DJ Mike P starting at 4 p.m., followed by the Lucky You Soiree from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. *5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West, 312-801-2100, promontorychicago.com*

Suburban and multiple locations

Beatrix

Get your Irish coffee hot or iced through Friday. The pastry counter will also be offering shamrock cookies. *Multiple locations, beatrixrestaurants.com*

Bub City

Both locations will offer a Reuben made with house-brined corned beef served on griddled rye with a side of waffle fries for $20 through Sunday. *435 N. Clark St., 312-610-4200; 5441 Park Place, Rosemont; 847-261-0399; bub-city.com*

Buffalo Creek Brewing

A St. Pat's Shindig running from noon to 11 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday features green beer, Burning Red Irish ale, Reuben empanadas from Savory Crust, green corn muffins from Brothers BBQ and performances by the McNulty Irish Dancers, Flat Creek Highway and Peter Warren. *360 Historical Lane, Long Grove; 847-821-6140; buffalocreekbrewing.com*

Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden

A special St. Patrick's week menu offered through Sunday at this pizzeria's Irving Park, Portage Park and Park Ridge locations features $4 green beer, $6 Guinness, $14 fish and chips, $13 corned beef on rye and a Reuben pizza made with Thousand Island dressing, corned beef, sauerkraut, pepperoncini and Swiss and mozzarella cheeses ($18-$29). *Multiple locations, easystreetpizzachicago.com*

FitzGerald's

Starting at noon Saturday, this Berwyn bar's St. Patrick's Day celebration will feature Babygold corned beef, Guinness and Irish coffees, which guests can enjoy along with entertainment from the Mayer School of Irish Dance, Switchback, The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, The Dooley Brothers and Fitz & the Celts. Tickets are $20, or $10 for children. *6615 Roosevelt Road, Berwyn; 08-788-2118, fitzgeraldsnightclub.com*

Fox's Restaurant & Pub

Irish food specials through Sunday include corned beef and cabbage ($20), Guinness beef pot pie ($20), roasted Irish salmon with mashed potatoes ($23) and Donegal Irish bread pudding ($7). Sip on Irish coffee or mules, plus all the Guinness, Smithwick's and black-and-tans one could care to drink, while enjoying Irish entertainment. *9240 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Lawn; 708-499-2233, foxsrestaurant.com*

The Hampton Social

The restaurant with locations in River North, Streeterville, Skokie, Burr Ridge and South Barrington offers a green spin on its signature frosé made with vodka, rosé and peach purée for $16 through Friday. *Multiple locations, thehamptonsocial.com*

Hannah's Bretzel

Offered all month long, the Dubliner sandwich at this fast-casual spot features corned beef from Tempesta Market, sauerkraut, juniper-Guinness glaze and horseradish dressing on a bretzel baguette. *Multiple locations, hannahsbretzel.com*

L. Woods Tap & Pine Lodge

Order a Reuben sandwich ($19) or corned beef & cabbage ($27) and finish your meal with a slice of Bailey's Irish cream pie with Oreo cookie crust ($9.95). The specials are offered March through Sunday. *7110 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood; 847-677-3350; lwoodsrestaurant.com*

M Burger

Celebrate all month long with a Minty Leprechaun shake made with vanilla ice cream and crushed mint cookies ($5.99). *Multiple locations, mburgerchicago.com*

Miller's Ale House

All of the chain's locations are celebrating through March 26 with specials including $16 Reubens, $14 Irish mule pitchers and $5.99 20-ounce Guinness drafts. *Multiple locations, millersalehouse.com*

Oaken Bistro + Bar

Executive chef Christian Alejandro offers specials throughout the day Friday, with corned beef hash for breakfast ($16), Reuben sliders for lunch ($18) and a corned beef dinner ($24). *200 N. Field Drive, Lake Forest; 847-582-6410; oakenbistro.com*

Scratchboard Kitchen

Chef Grace Goudie offers St. Patrick's Day specials all month long including green matcha yuzu pancakes, Lucky Charms scones, gluten-free Irish soda bread and Cozy Up, a spin on Irish coffee made with either Bailey's or Frangelico. *5 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights; 847-749-3103; scratchboardkitchenah.com*

Southsides Bar

Located in suburban Alsip, this bar will kick off its St. Patrick's Day party at 7 p.m. with $2 green beer, drink and shot specials, split the pot raffles and free corned beef and cabbage. *11860 S. Cicero Ave., Alsip; 708-371-1133*

Stan's Donuts & Coffee

Treat yourself to an Irish Cream Bismark or an Emerald Dipped, Shamrock Sprinkled or Green River Glazed doughnut through Friday. *Multiple locations, stansdonuts.com*

Sweet Mandy B's

You could win a prize pack including six cupcakes, a coffee mug and a reusable bag if you buy a The End of the Rainbow Cupcake, yellow cake decorated with chocolate buttercream and a rainbow ($4.50) on Friday and find one of the six treats filled with gold buttercream. Other specials available through Friday include Lucky Charms rice krispie treats ($5.50), shamrock cookies ($3.75) and a Luck of the Irish chocolate Guinness cupcake frosted with Bailey's buttercream ($4.50). *1208 W. Webster Ave., 773-244-1174; 254 E. Ontario St., 312-255-1632; sweetmandybs.com*

Thorn Restaurant & Lounge

Corned beef and cabbage served with baby carrots and horseradish sauce ($24) is offered all month long. Stop in on St. Patrick's Day for green beer on draft. *5200 Pearl Street, Rosemont; 847-260-4774; thornrestaurant.com*

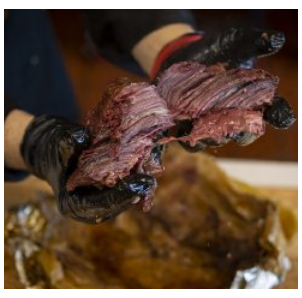
Timothy O'Toole's Pub

The Streeterville bar transformed into Timmy's Leprechaun Lounge through Saturday, serving themed cocktails such as an Irish apple martini made with O'Toole's vodka and the Pot O'Gold, a blend of Stoli Ohranj vodka and pineapple juice rimmed with gold glitter and garnished with rainbow candy and a chocolate coin (both $11). Visit the bar's suburban locations in Gurnee, Libertyville and Lake Villa for bagpiper performances and giveaways Friday. Specials offered through Friday include Guinness beef stew served with Irish soda bread ($17), Reuben egg rolls ($13), corned beef on rye served with housemade spicy mustard ($15), $4.50 pints of green beer, $6 shots of Tullamore Dew and $8 Irish coffee. *Multiple locations, timothyotooles.com*

Wildfire

Celebrate Thursday and Friday with a corned beef & cabbage plate and chocolate stout cake. *Multiple locations, wildfirerestaurant.com*

Sab Khalf tosses salt while preparing the beef at halal-certified Meat Moot Smoking in Burbank on March 8.
BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS



The beef is prepared at Meat Moot Smoking.

Barbecue

from Page 1

all the meat for at least 12 hours, and some cuts take up to 18 hours," Musleh said.

But the concept also differs from your standard Texas-style barbecue joint in a number of ways.

Take the prices. Essentially, all the meat is $45 per pound, which sounds absurdly high, but that includes rice, roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes, a few salads, nonalcoholic drinks and, I kid you not, more than 10 different sauces. (More about this later.) It's so much food, sharing one pound between two or more people is essentially required. (After my visits, Musleh did let me know the restaurant now offers a lunch option, where you can get a half-pound of brisket or a lamb shank with salad, rice and a drink for $20.)

Though you can order at your table from a server, it's far more enjoyable to do so at the counter, where the employees prepare your order with the dramatic flair of another Turkish personality, Nusret Gökçe—better known to the world as Salt Bae. After ordering the lamb neck, I watched as a suavely dressed employee tossed coarse salt 3 feet in the air above the meat platter. While mostly unnecessary, you'd have to be deeply cynical not to enjoy the show.

Along with salt, the meat gets a sprinkle of black pepper, a drizzle of honey and a heavy dusting of a fascinating house-made medley of spices. I couldn't convince Musleh to reveal the full blend to me, but there's definitely some coriander, along with maybe some paprika and cumin. Regardless, the mix adds a wild complexity to each bite, distinguishing Meat Moot from other barbecue joints around Chicago.

While the brisket is impressively tender, the spice mix melds especially well with the lamb cuts. The lamb shank features a delicate aroma of smoke, and the meat shreds with the slightest touch of your fork. Even better, as long as you don't mind the fat, is the extra luscious lamb neck. If only more local barbecue joints served that cut.

Not everything is available in one-pound servings. For example, if you want beef or lamb ribs, you're going to have to spring for a few pounds. Fortunately, the servers are more than happy to help you figure out exactly how much meat your party needs.

Needless to say, the menu format doesn't lend itself very well to solo dining, unless you're planning to take home enough leftovers for a few more meals (which isn't a terrible idea). Plus, it's more fun with a group, where you can try multiple types of meat.

Though the meat is obviously the star of the show, each order comes with a nearly overwhelming number of sides. Instead of exhausting, the vegetables nicely round out the meaty meal.

Oddly, I'm not as big of a fan of the plethora of sauces. While hilarious when about a dozen tiny cups arrive at your table, most of them feel completely unnecessary, and some actually clash with the meat. Sure, it's great to have a spicy garlic sauce, but do we need tartar sauce or American hot sauce? Instead, I wish the restaurant had one carefully balanced sauce that worked well with the spice rub.

But even with this small gripe, Meat Moot offers a fascinating spin on the smoked meat genre that has been offering more conformity than variety in the past few years.

Meat Moot Smoking, 7909 S. Harlem Ave., Burbank; 773-934-4866; meatmoot.com.tr

nkindelsperger@chicagotribune.com

Diners eat at Meat Moot Smoking in Burbank on March 8.

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Clearing a path to recovery

Peer support specialists work to give others like them a second chance

Peer support specialist Donna Norton, right, embraces client Sarah Wright in Norton's office in Centennial, Colorado. Norton helped Wright open a bank account, get a job and obtain dentures. **RAE ELLEN BICHELL/KAISER HEALTH NEWS 2022 PHOTOS**

Donna Norton meets with Ian Dereus and his dog, Lola, at the hotel in Centennial, Colorado, where Norton helps people recovering from mental health and substance use disorders. Dereus is now considered a graduate and is living in his own apartment.

By Rae Ellen Bichell
Kaiser Health News

Sarah Wright stops by her peer support specialist's hotel room-turned-office in Centennial, Colorado, several times a day.

But her visit on a morning in mid-October was one of her first with teeth.

The specialist, Donna Norton, had pushed Wright to go to the dentist years after homelessness and addiction had taken a toll on her health, down to the jawbone.

Wright was still getting used to her dentures. "I haven't had teeth in 12 ½, 13 years," she said, adding that they made her feel like a horse.

A new smile was Wright's latest milestone as she works to rebuild her life, and Norton has been there for each step: opening a bank account, getting a job, developing a sense of her own worth.

Wright's voice started to waver when she talked about Norton's role in her life during the past few months. Norton wrapped her arms around Wright.

"Oh, muffin," she said. "I'm so proud of you."

Norton, 54, is a Harley-riding, bulldog-loving, eight-years-sober grandmother and, professionally, "a cheerleader for the people that look bad on paper."

People like her. "If you were to look me up on paper, you wouldn't be in this room with me," Norton said. "You would not let me near your house."

If she were a therapist or social worker, hugging and sharing her experiences with drugs and the law might be considered a breach of professional boundaries. But as a peer support specialist, that's often part of the job.

Norton works for the Hornbuckle Foundation, which provides peer support to participants in the SAFER Opportunities Initiative. SAFER provides short-term shelter in the hotel for people in Arapahoe County who are homeless and have mental health or substance use disorders.

Peer support specialists are themselves in recovery and are employed to help others. As billions of dollars in opioid settlement funds roll out to states and localities, local leaders are deciding what to do with the money. Supporting and training peer specialists, whose certification requirements vary by state, are among the options.

States, counties, municipalities and tribes filed thousands of lawsuits against drug companies and wholesalers that are accused of fueling the opioid crisis. Many of those cases were lumped together into one mega-lawsuit. Last year, four companies settled out of court, agreeing to pay $26 billion over 18 years. Participating states must follow guidelines for how the money can be spent.

In Colorado, hundreds of millions of dollars from that settlement will go to local governments and regional groups, several of which submitted plans to use some of the money for peer support services.

David Eddie, a clinical psychologist and a research scientist at the Recovery Research Institute at Massachusetts General Hospital, said peer recovery support services have "been gaining a lot of traction in recent years."

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, "mounting evidence" shows that working with a peer specialist can result in better recovery outcomes, from greater housing stability to reduced rates of relapse and hospitalization. A report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office identified peer support services as a promising practice in treating adults with substance use disorders. In many states, peer specialists are reimbursed through Medicaid.

"They can plug a really important gap," Eddie said. "They can do things that we as clinicians can't do."

They can, for example, navigate the bureaucracy of the child protective services system, about which clinicians might have little knowledge, or take someone out to coffee to build a relationship. If a person stops showing up to therapy, Eddie said, a peer support specialist "can physically go and look for somebody and bring them back to treatment — help them reengage, reduce their shame, destigmatize addiction."

Norton has, for instance, picked up a client who called her from an alley after being discharged from a hospital stay for an overdose.

"Some people will tell you, 'I decided I was going to get in recovery, and I never had to drink, drug or use again.' That's not my experience. It took me 20 years to get my first year clean and sober. And that was trying every day," said Norton from her office.

Her office, warmed by the sunlight coming through a south-facing window and the nearly constant rotation of people plopping onto the couch, contains a shelf of essential items. There are opioid overdose reversal kits containing Narcan, tampons — Norton will "never forget" the time she got a ticket for stealing tampons from a grocery store while she was homeless — and urine analysis kits, for determining whether someone is high versus experiencing psychosis.

That October day, Norton pivoted from nagging one person to make a doctor's appointment, to getting someone else set up with a food pantry, to figuring out how to respond to the bank that told a third client that an account couldn't be opened without a residential address. She also worked on lowering the defenses of a skeptical newcomer.

Some people come to Norton after being released from jail, others by word of mouth. The newcomer applied after hearing about the program in a homeless shelter.

Norton decided that sharing a little about herself was the way to go with him.

"'My experience is jails and hospitals and institutions. I've got an old number,' meaning a convict number. 'And I have eight years drug-free,'" she recalled telling him.

Kyle Brewer, based in Arkansas, is the peer specialist program manager for NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals (formerly the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors). Brewer, who said his life derailed after he started using prescription opioids to manage the pain from a wisdom tooth removal, said opioid settlement funds present an opportunity to support the people who work on the ground.

"When we're working and talking and troubleshooting different approaches to solve the opioid crisis, we should have the people that have been directly affected by those issues in the room, guiding those conversations," he said.

felonious florida

Beyond the beaches, the theme parks, the palm trees and the warm breezes lies the dark side of the Sunshine State.

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Marketing or medicine?

At-home food-sensitivity test kits seem useful, but science is lacking

By Alice Callahan
The New York Times

GETTY

Food is one of life's pleasures, but it can also be a source of pain — especially if you're among the tens of millions of Americans who regularly experience digestive issues such as heartburn, abdominal pain, bloating or diarrhea. When those symptoms strike, you may wonder: Are certain foods to blame?

Food-sensitivity tests promise answers. For decades, these tests were offered mainly in providers' offices in alternative-medicine settings. Now, they are increasingly available as at-home tests you can purchase online or at drugstores. Manufacturers claim that with several drops of blood or a few plucked hairs, they can identify the foods that are causing your discomfort. Once eliminated from your diet, you'll be on the road to relief.

That a simple test could guide dietary changes and improve common, disruptive symptoms is appealing. But do these tests work?

What is a food sensitivity?

According to Dr. David Stukus, director of the Food Allergy Treatment Center at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, the term "food sensitivity" is used more in marketing than in medicine. "There really is no consensus definition of what a food sensitivity is," he said.

The companies selling these tests typically describe it as what happens when a specific food triggers digestive issues or gut inflammation, causing symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloating or headaches. Symptoms may appear hours or even days after eating, and often resolve when the offending food is avoided.

When physicians or dietitians refer to such issues, they're more likely to use the term food intolerance, Stukus said (although some may use food sensitivity, too), such as with lactose intolerance, which can cause constipation, diarrhea and bloating as a result of difficulty digesting the sugar found in milk. Similarly, people with irritable bowel syndrome, or IBS, may be sensitive to certain kinds of carbohydrates called FODMAPs, and altering their diet may relieve their symptoms.

A food intolerance or sensitivity is different from a food allergy, Stukus said, which is an immune reaction to certain foods that can cause more severe symptoms such as vomiting, hives, shortness of breath or even life-threatening anaphylaxis, usually within minutes of eating even a small amount. There are also more chronic immune reactions to foods, such as those from celiac disease, a serious autoimmune condition triggered by gluten.

How do food-sensitivity tests work?

At-home food-sensitivity test kits can be ordered online or purchased over-the-counter at drugstores. Depending on the test type, you'll pluck several hairs or prick your finger to drop blood onto a paper card, and then mail in your sample. Within days or weeks, you'll receive digital results, including a list of foods that may be causing problems.

Some tests claim to determine your sensitivity to hundreds of foods and ingredients by measuring the "bioresonance" of your hair, an unproven technique used in holistic or complementary medicine that involves measuring the energy wavelengths coming from your body. Others measure the levels of certain antibodies, called IgG antibodies, in your blood.

Still other tests, called Alcat and MRT tests, require a blood draw from a lab and measure how the size of your blood cells change after exposure to food extracts in a test tube, said Dr. John Kelso, an allergist at Scripps Clinic Carmel Valley in San Diego.

Are food-sensitivity tests accurate?

Aside from the breath tests that gastroenterologists sometimes use to diagnose certain intolerances, such as those to lactose or fructose, there aren't validated tests for food intolerances or sensitivities, said Tamara Duker Freuman, a registered dietitian at New York Gastroenterology Associates in New York City. The only way to figure out if you are sensitive to certain foods or ingredients is to see how your symptoms change after eliminating them from your diet, ideally with the help of a registered dietitian or physician, she said.

This can be a slow process involving trial and error, and the companies selling food-sensitivity tests market them as a shortcut. But medical organizations, including those in the United States, Europe and Canada, have recommended against using food sensitivity or intolerance tests because there is no good evidence that they work.

"There isn't anything in your hair that would tell you anything about your sensitivity to food," Kelso said. And the antibodies measured in the IgG tests are produced as part of the immune system's normal response to foods; they haven't been shown to correlate with symptoms or intolerances, Stukus said. "It's really just a reflection of what you've eaten."

Christina Song, a spokesperson for Everlywell, a company that sells at-home IgG food-sensitivity tests, pointed to several studies — mostly in people with IBS and some funded by the companies that sell the tests. In them, researchers found that eliminating high IgG foods reduced symptoms such as abdominal pain and bloating. But, in general, many of the studies that have reported positive results for food-sensitivity tests have been small and often lacked proper control groups, said Dr. Lin Chang, a gastroenterologist and professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

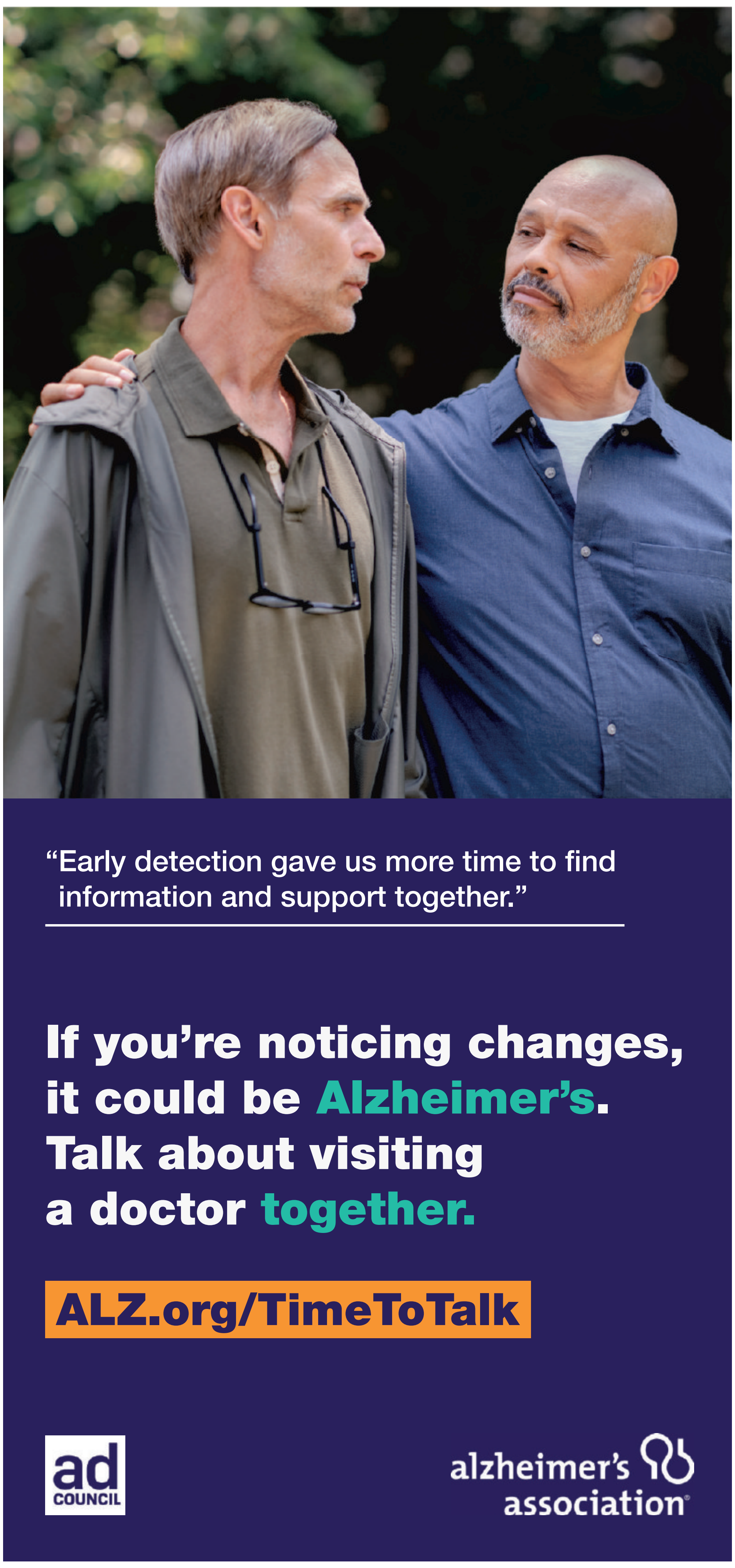
In a small trial of 58 IBS patients, published in 2017 and funded by Cell Science Systems, a company that sells the Alcat food sensitivity test, researchers found that those who avoided foods flagged as intolerant by the test for four weeks reported greater improvement in their symptoms than control participants.

Are there any downsides to trying these tests?

There can be. Food sensitivity testing can cause people to unnecessarily avoid a long list of foods, missing out on those they enjoy and potentially becoming susceptible to nutrient deficiencies, said Dr. Frances Onyimba, a gastroenterologist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The cost of food sensitivity testing is generally not covered by insurance and can range from less than $100 for hair-based tests to $600 or more for tests on blood-cell size. The Everlywell Food Sensitivity Comprehensive Test retails online for $299.

The tests can also leave people anxious about eating, which can sometimes develop into eating disorders, Stukus said.



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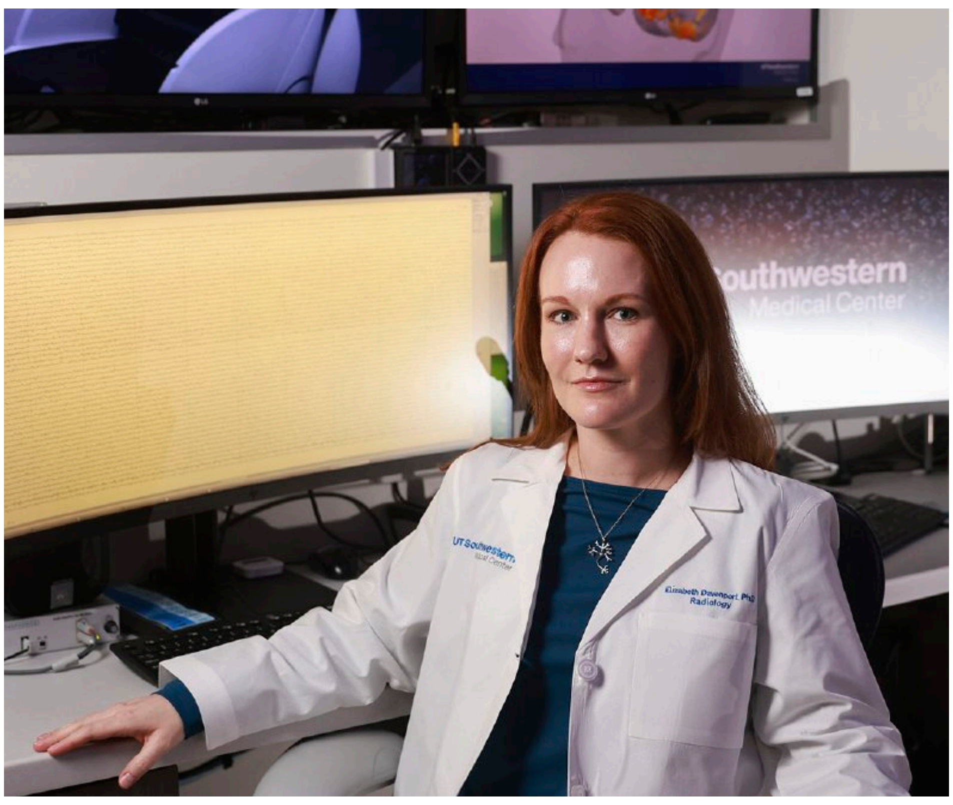
Brain waves may help diagnose concussions

It's often challenging to figure out if head trauma has occurred

By Adithi Ramakrishnan
The Dallas Morning News



Elizabeth Davenport, assistant professor of radiology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, headed a study that found delta waves in the brain might play a role in determining concussions. **REBECCA SLEZAK/DALLAS MORNING NEWS PHOTOS**

Davenport points to an image of a concussed brain.

DALLAS — On Sept. 25, Tua Tagovailoa banged his head on the turf after being knocked to the ground in a game against the Buffalo Bills. Stumbling to his feet, the Miami Dolphins quarterback was evaluated for a concussion, but returned to the field for the second half.

Tagovailoa was carried off his next game Sept. 29 in a stretcher, hospitalized with a concussion that many believed wasn't his first. The incident sparked an investigation into how the Dolphins handled Tagovailoa's Sept. 25 injury and prompted the NFL to add ataxia, or lack of coordination, to its concussion protocol.

It can be difficult to decide when a concussed football player can safely return to the field, be it an NFL quarterback or a high school athlete. A University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center researcher wants to give doctors a measurable way to determine whether youth football players have recovered from a concussion to make that decision-making process easier.

In a study published in the journal Brain and Behavior, Elizabeth Davenport and her team identified a brain wave that increased in concussed youth football players compared to non-concussed players.

More research is needed to find out whether doctors could someday use this brain wave to measure concussion recovery, said Benjamin Dunkley, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto and scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children. But it's a promising start.

"It's exciting that this aligns with some of our previous work in adults, as well as some of the animal models that are used to study (traumatic brain injury)," said Dunkley, who was not involved with the research.

Concussions can be caused by a blow that makes the head and brain move back and forth. They can cause dizziness, headaches, memory problems and more.

Davenport's interest in brain injury started with the racetrack. Her father drove for NASCAR when she was young, and she helped treat crash victims while working as an EMT for a year.

In 2011, she joined radiology professor Dr. Joseph Maldjian's lab at Wake Forest University as a graduate student, two years after the NFL first publicly acknowledged that concussions could lead to long-term problems for players. Davenport and Maldjian began thinking about concussion-related brain injuries in younger athletes.

"The NFL was the tip of the iceberg, where there's 2,000, 3,000 players," said Davenport, now an assistant professor of radiology at UT Southwestern. "But then at the youth level, there's millions of players."

An analysis of concussion rates in 20 high school sports from 2013-2018 found that boys' football had the highest concussion rate: 10.4 concussions per 10,000 athletes.

Concussions are typically diagnosed using symptom checklists and behavioral tests that examine a player's memory, motor function or cognition, said Davenport. She said these tests can be subjective and players don't always tell doctors their symptoms.

Sitting out a game can be costly for young players who have devoted their lives to the sport.

"It's very simple to say, if you think you're hurt, sit it out," she said. "But for a lot of these kids and even for the pro players, it can mean scholarships, it can mean life-changing opportunities for them."

Without looking inside the brain, Davenport said, it's tough to know how long recovery can take.

She looked into previous concussion research and found a specific brain wave that spiked during unusual circumstances: delta waves.

As we grow older, Davenport said, delta waves become less common, except in deep sleep. It's unusual to see them in the brains of awake adults.

Davenport examined research from two University of California, San Diego, professors that found concussed combat veterans had higher levels of delta waves. In veterans whose concussion symptoms lasted longer than expected, the delta waves were localized to the brain area where they had symptoms. Davenport wondered whether delta waves might increase in youth football players after they had a concussion as well.

She and her team collected data on 24 male student athletes from North Carolina ages 14 to 17. Eight played non-contact sports, like swimming. The remaining 16 were football players. Eight of them experienced a concussion during the season and the other eight did not.

Davenport and her team scanned the players' brains before and after the season using an imaging technique called magnetoencephalography, or MEG, to get a clear picture of delta waves in the brain. They also scanned the concussed players' brains within 72 hours of their concussion.

Davenport found that the football players with concussions had, by the end of the season, significantly higher delta wave levels than both the non-contact sport athletes and the football players who didn't have concussions.

The study adds to existing evidence that delta waves increase following a concussion, and it's one of only a few that looks at concussions in adolescents and children, said Dunkley. He said completing studies with a larger athlete population will be necessary to see how delta waves look in different brains.

Dunkley believes that delta waves could be useful to diagnose concussions, along with other markers. Those include using MEG to see how different brain areas communicate or testing patients' blood or saliva. An FDA-approved blood test was developed by Abbott Laboratories to help clinicians evaluate patients for traumatic brain injury, for example.

Davenport is recruiting male and female athletes who play contact sports to begin a longer concussion study this spring. She wants to monitor delta waves in athletes' brains after a concussion and for a month after their season ends.

"We want to follow up with them and see, when do your symptoms go away, and then when do your delta waves go away?" she said.

Tracking players for a month after their concussions will take "a herculean effort," Davenport said. The scanners used by her team to measure delta waves are also used by clinical patients, and timing is critical: If a player suffers a concussion during a Friday night game, Davenport needs to get them scanned Monday morning.

She's prepared to make it happen. "We proved with this first small study (that) 'Hey, we can do this,'" she said. "We applied for more funding, and we're going to expand and better test our theory."

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Reader has solution for those with nasal spray dependence

By Joe Graedon, M.S., and Teresa Graedon, Ph.D.
King Features Syndicate

Drugmakers caution against using decongestant nasal sprays for more than three days. **DREAMSTIME**

Q: I had a full-blown addiction to nasal spray before most people knew that could happen.

To recover, I sprayed one nostril only until the other cleared, and then stopped. Having one nostril free for breathing is tolerable. It took about a week for this to clear.

A: Decongestant nasal sprays can lead to rebound congestion upon discontinuation. That is why labels often caution against using such products for more than three days.

Weaning one nostril at a time can be helpful in overcoming the dependence. Corticosteroid sprays can also make this process easier.

Q: My migraines started in perimenopause and then ramped up until I was suffering more than half the month. I have tried so, so many things, among them hormone replacement therapy, supplements, rescue medications, exercise, acupuncture, massage, Botox and major dietary changes.

What has helped me the most is Ajovy, but not right away. It took a full four months before I really learned how to self-inject properly and that has made a difference.

A: Ajovy (fremanezumab) belongs to a category of migraine prevention medicines called CGRP antagonists. Other drugs in this class include Aimovig (erenumab) and Emgality (galcanezumab).

We're glad you have gotten relief. The clinical trial for Ajovy demonstrated that people using this monthly injection had about two fewer migraines a month compared to placebo. These volunteers averaged about 13 "moderate severity" migraines a month prior to treatment. If insurance does not cover these monthly injections, the cost could be nearly $800 a month.

Q: I had a bad reaction to my blood pressure medicines, amlodipine and chlorthalidone. I saw my primary care physician at the end of 2022 for a routine checkup and bloodwork. At that time, I asked about my potassium level, as I know certain blood pressure medications can deplete it. She said it was "low normal" and told me to eat an extra banana.

Jump forward to February 2023. I started feeling ill; my heart was racing, and I had numbness in my hands and felt like I might pass out. I thought I was having a heart attack, so my husband took me to urgent care.

They did not find anything but sent me to the emergency department. After more EKGs and lab tests, a doctor finally told me that my potassium level had dropped dangerously low. They gave me two intravenous potassium drips.

After a night in the hospital for observation, they let me go home with instructions to quit taking the chlorthalidone. I'm glad I survived, but doctors should be more aware of the side effects of medications they prescribe.

A: Low potassium levels can trigger life-threatening heart rhythm changes. Other symptoms include confusion and weakness as well as numbness or tingling and muscle spasms or cramps. Constipation, frequent urination and thirst may also occur.

Diuretics like chlorthalidone or hydrochlorothiazide can deplete the body of potassium, magnesium and sodium. It seems your doctor may not have been paying close enough attention to this possibility. The advice to eat an extra banana might not counteract a potentially dangerous potassium imbalance.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q&A

What are uterine fibroids?

Mayo Clinic

GETTY

Q: I am 27 and have heavy menstrual cycles. In the past year, I have begun to have more pelvic pain, especially during my period. A friend said I should get checked for fibroids. What are fibroids, and how do you treat them?

A: Uterine fibroids, also called leiomyomas or myomas, are benign masses that come from the muscle portion of the uterus. Fibroids are common. About 80% of people born with a uterus will develop fibroids, but not everyone has symptoms. Fibroids are most often diagnosed between 20 and 40 years old.

The cause of fibroids is unknown, although estrogen and progesterone appear to promote the growth of fibroids. Scientists are looking into other possible risk factors, such as family history, early onset of menstruation and lifestyle factors. People of African descent have a greater risk of fibroids, which can occur at an earlier age and produce more severe symptoms.

Here are the main symptoms caused by fibroids.

- Heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding: This can include changing a tampon or pad every hour, having bleeding for more than seven days or bleeding that prevents you from doing everyday activities.
- Pain: Most commonly, fibroids cause pain during your period, but if they are large, they can cause a constant feeling of pressure or fullness.
- Bulk symptoms: This can include seeing a bulge in your abdomen or appearing pregnant when you are not; urinary frequency; difficulty passing bowel movements; or feeling full constantly.

In some women, reproductive issues, including difficulty getting pregnant or a miscarriage, may be a sign of fibroids.

Given that excessive menstrual bleeding and pelvic pain may be signs of any number of issues, any person experiencing pain or heavy periods should visit their gynecologist.

Fibroids often can be felt on physical exam. Usually, when the uterus is enlarged or irregular, an ultrasound is ordered to diagnose fibroids.

Medical and surgical treatments are available. Treatment depends on which symptoms are most bothersome, as well as the size, number and location of the fibroids, and whether pregnancy is desired in the future.

Most medications aim to reduce the heavy bleeding common in people with fibroids. Hormonal medications — birth control and therapies unrelated to birth control — as well as nonhormonal medications can help suppress period bleeding. While medications can help shrink fibroids, these medications are not meant to be taken long term. Surgeries include the following.

- Hysterectomy, in which the uterus is removed: This is a great option for people who are concerned about fibroids coming back in the future and have no desire for pregnancy. This procedure may be performed laparoscopically, with incisions no bigger than the size of your fingertip.
- Myomectomy: A myomectomy aims to remove only the symptom-causing fibroids through the vagina or through small incisions.
- Uterine fibroid embolization: Also known as uterine artery embolization, uterine fibroid embolization blocks the blood supply to fibroids, causing them to shrink. Pregnancy is not recommended after this procedure.
- Radiofrequency fibroid ablation: This technique uses a device inserted into the fibroid and destroys the tissue with heat. Because this is a newer technique, few providers are trained in this technology, and you may need to ask your health care provider for a referral to a fibroid clinic or specialist.
- Endometrial ablation, which destroys the lining of the uterus using a device inserted through the vagina: This treatment does not shrink fibroids, but it can decrease heavy periods caused by fibroids.

If you are diagnosed with fibroids, you can return to having a good quality of life.

— Michelle Louie, M.D., Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix

Mayo Clinic Q&A is an educational resource and doesn't replace regular medical care. Email a question to MayoClinicQ&A@mayo.edu.

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